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SCENES FROM THE
HOTTEST GAME EVER!

**SUPER
MARIO**

BROS.

3
Plus

The legend of
ZELDA

Captain N

**THE GAME
MASTER**

*and
more!*



VALIANT™



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Nintendo COMICS SYSTEM

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Why?

Because Nintendo players are smart, discerning, tasteful people, with a sense of humor.

Lots of companies would have loved to have published comics for Nintendo players. But the nice people at Nintendo picked us—VALIANT. They thought we'd do the best job. We will.

So here it is, the moment we've all been waiting for. Welcome to *Nintendo Comics System #1*.

Please let us know what you think. Is this the moment you've all been waiting for? Got any comments? Suggestions? Ideas? Write to: Voyager Communications Inc., 132 West 21st Street, New York, NY 10011.

And, from all of us at VALIANT, the comics publishing arm of Voyager Communications Inc., thanks for being along on this, our first "voyage."



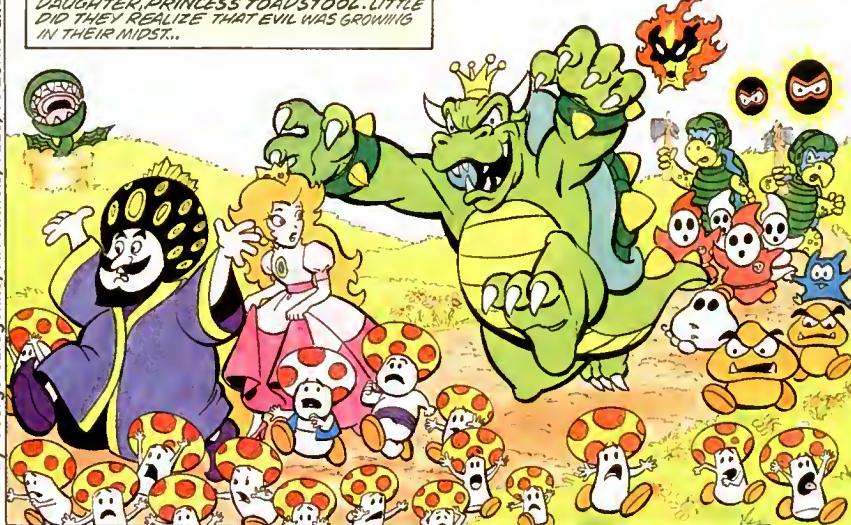
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By George Carogonne, Art Nichols, Jade, P. Zorito and Joner Jackson

THE LEGEND

FAR BEYOND THE WORLD WE KNOW LIES THE MAGICAL MUSHROOM KINGDOM. THERE, THE MUSHROOM PEOPLE LIVED IN PEACE, RULED BY THE KINDLY MUSHROOM KING AND HIS DAUGHTER, PRINCESS TOADSTOOL. LITTLE DID THEY REALIZE THAT EVIL WAS GROWING IN THEIR MIDST...

THE FREEDOM-LOVING FUNGI WERE MENACED BY THE FORCES OF TYRANNY...



THE BIGGEST TROUBLEMAKER WAS A REVOLTING REPTILE AND A DESPICABLE DESPOT - THAT CALLOUS, COLD-BLOODED CREEP, KING BOWSER KOOPA.

WHO WERE YOU EXPECTING? THE TOOTH FAIRY?



TOAD, THE ROYAL MUSHROOM RETAINER, WONDERED... "WHO WOULD SAVE THE KINGDOM?"

GOOD QUESTION, HUH?



THE KIND, GENTLE, DEMURE PRINCESS TOADSTOOL CALLED FOR HELP.

HELP! HELP!

AND STEP ON IT, OKAY?



FORTUNATELY, WORD REACHED THE EARS OF TWO HEROIC CHAMPIONS OF GOODNESS AND RIGHT, TWO MEN WHO HUNGERED FOR JUSTICE AND THIRSTED FOR FREEDOM!



MARIO, A MAN OF GREAT COURAGE AND DETERMINATION!

AND HIS BROTHER LUIGI WHO, THOUGH SHY, WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO RISE TO A CHALLENGE!



THIS IS WHERE THE LEGEND ENDS AND THE ADVENTURE BEGINS. THE SUPER MARIO BROTHERS DEFEATED THE FORCES OF EVIL...



HOWEVER, KING KOOPA WASN'T GOING TO TAKE DEFEAT LYING DOWN!

PLUNGED INTO DESPAIR BY A PAIR OF PLUMBERS! ALL MY EVIL PLANS FLUSHED DOWN THE DRAIN! BUT, I'LL GET THEM FOR THIS!



OUR HEROES KNEW THAT JUST LIKE WATER IN A CLOGGED SINK, THE CALL FOR HELP WOULD RISE AGAIN!

REMEMBER, THE BEST LAID PIPES OF MUSHROOMS AND MEN ARE BOUND IN TIME TO BURST!

BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, WHEN DO WE EAT?



GAME OVER

SUPER MARIO BROS.

JUST DESERTS

YAAAAHHH!

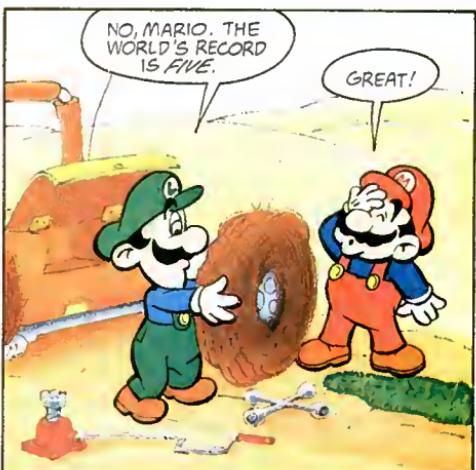
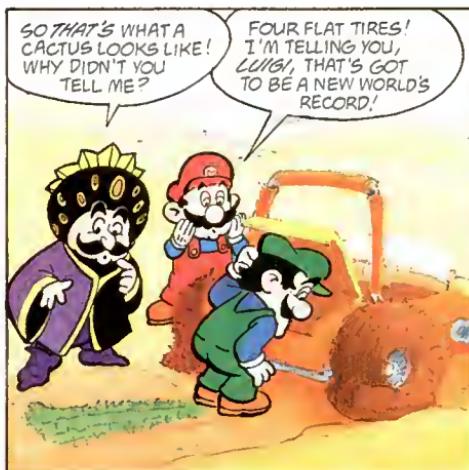
YAHOO!! I
HAVEN'T HAD
THIS MUCH FUN
SINCE I WAS
KNEE-HIGH TO
A TOADSTOOL!

BETTER TIGHTEN
YOUR SEATBELTS,
BOYS! WE'RE IN FOR
A BUMPY LANDING!

KING! LOOK OUT--!
--FOR THAT
CACTUS!

WHAT CACTUS?

POW KABOOF

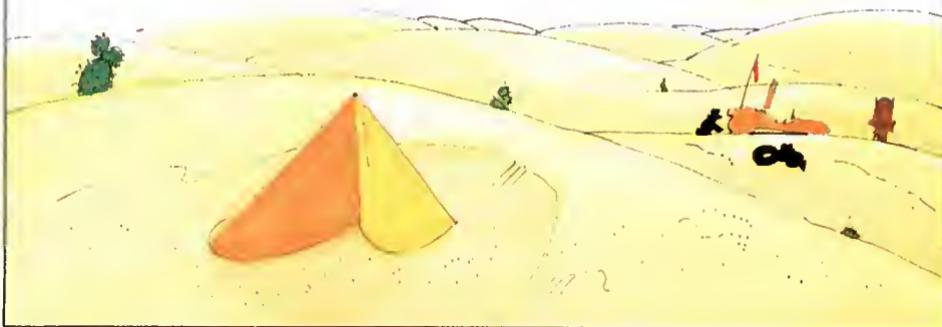


OH, WELL.
ANYBODY GOT
CHANGE?

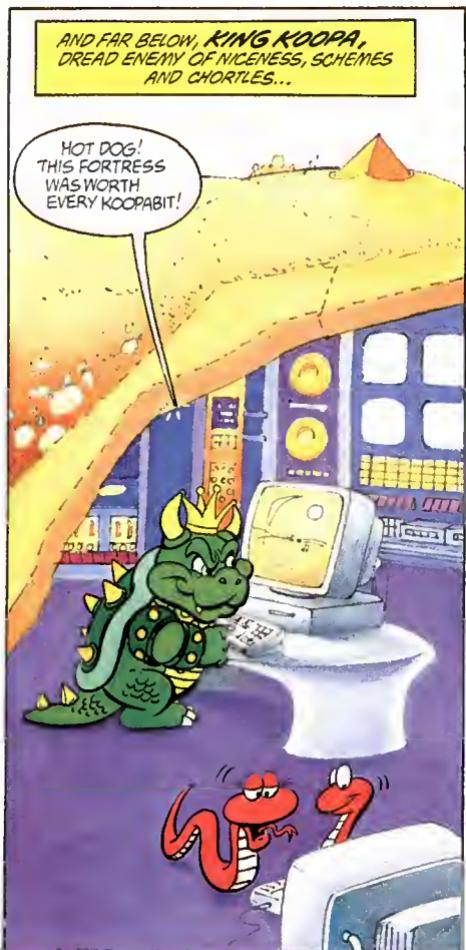
I NEVER NOTICED THESE
BEFORE -- BUT I'M
GLAD THEY'RE HERE
NOW!



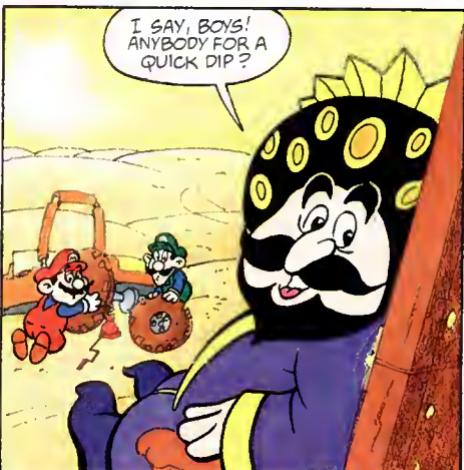
THE MARIO BROS. ARE HAVING SUCH A GOOD TIME THAT THEY FAIL TO NOTICE THE TINY GOLDEN PYRAMID SPROUTING FROM THE DESERT SANDS...



AND FAR BELOW, KING KOOPA,
DREAD ENEMY OF NICENESS, SCHEMES
AND CHORTLES...

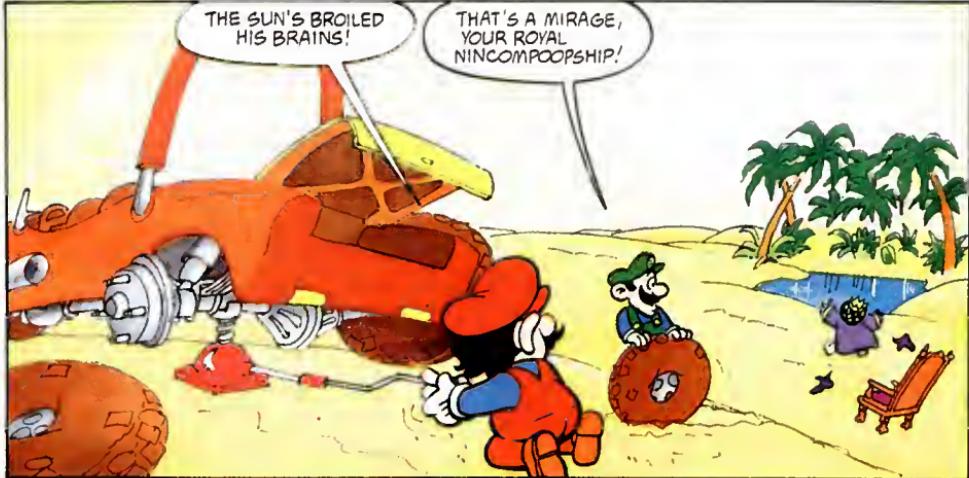


I SAY, BOYS!
ANYBODY FOR A
QUICK DIP?



THE SUN'S BROILED
HIS BRAINS!

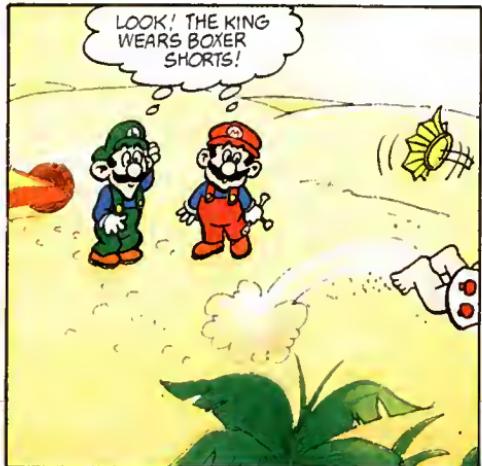
THAT'S A MIRAGE,
YOUR ROYAL
NINCOMPOOPSHIP!



LAST ONE IN'S A
ROTTEN RUTABAGA!



LOOK! THE KING
WEARS BOXER
SHORTS!

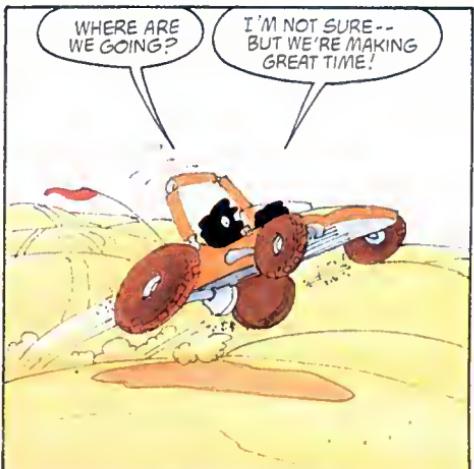
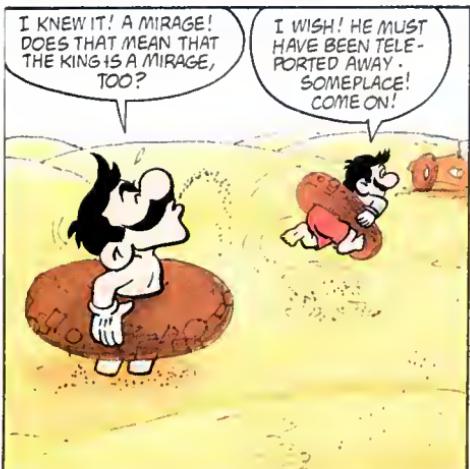
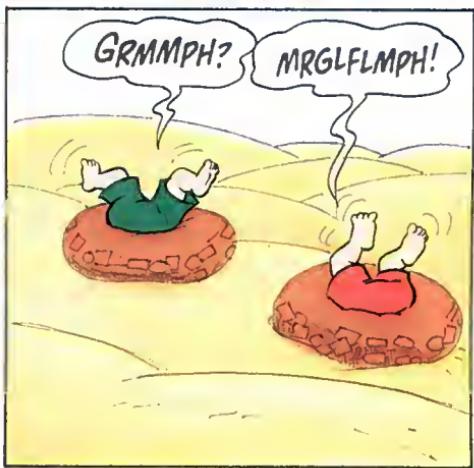
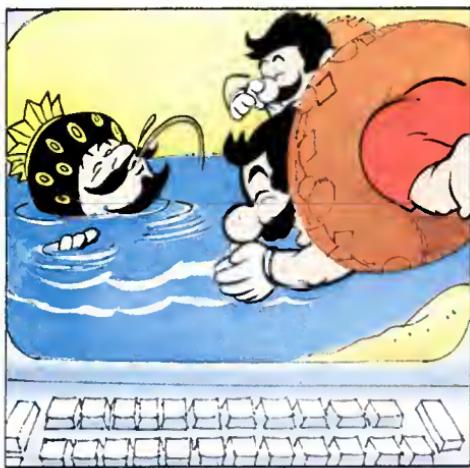


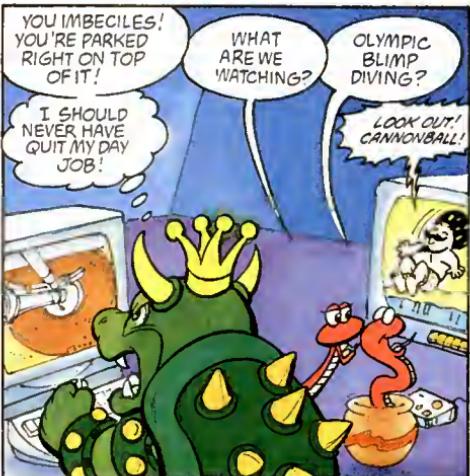
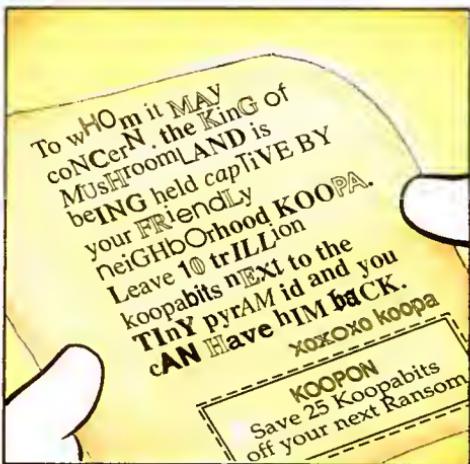
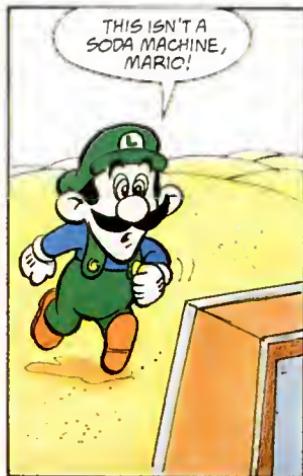
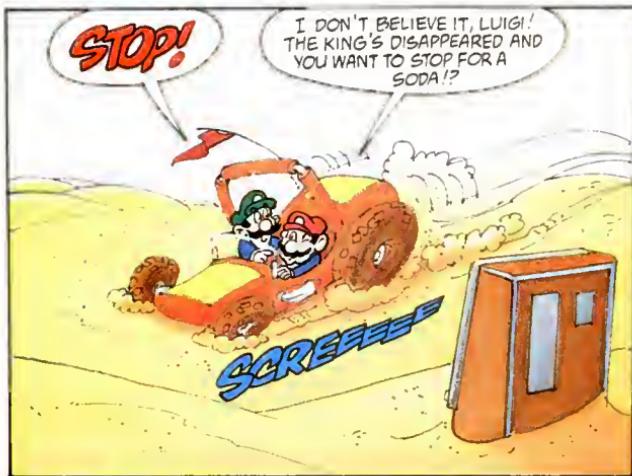
HOO-HAH!

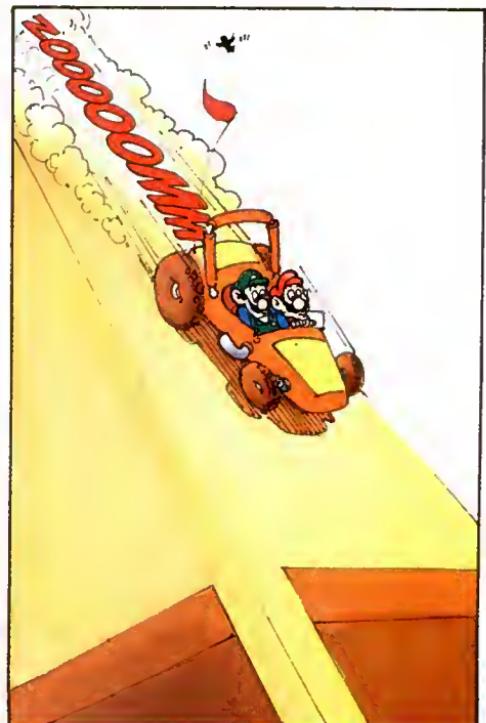
FOR A GUY WHO JUST DIVED
INTO A MIRAGE, HE SEEMS TO
BE HAVING AN AWFULLY
GOOD TIME...

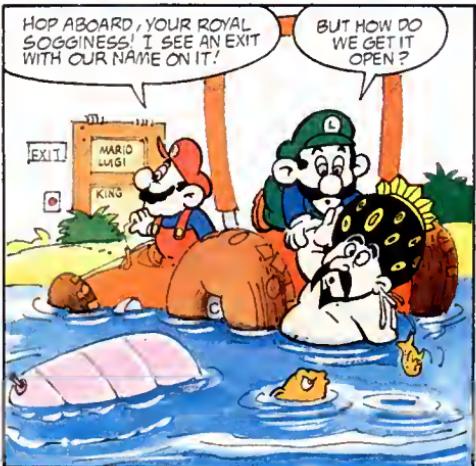
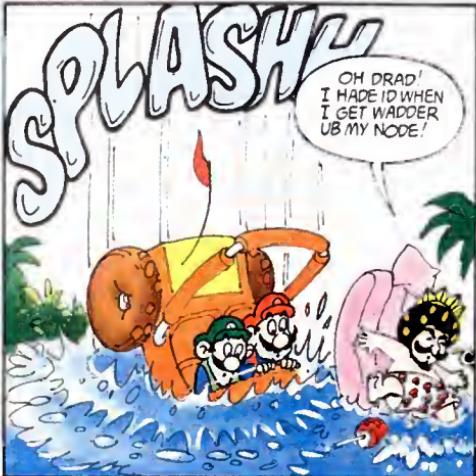
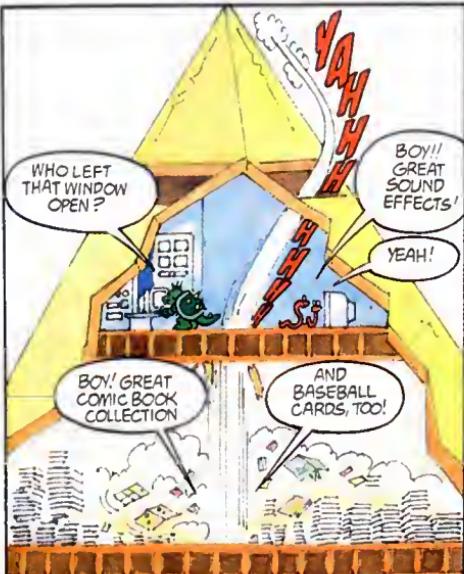
DO YOU
THINK...

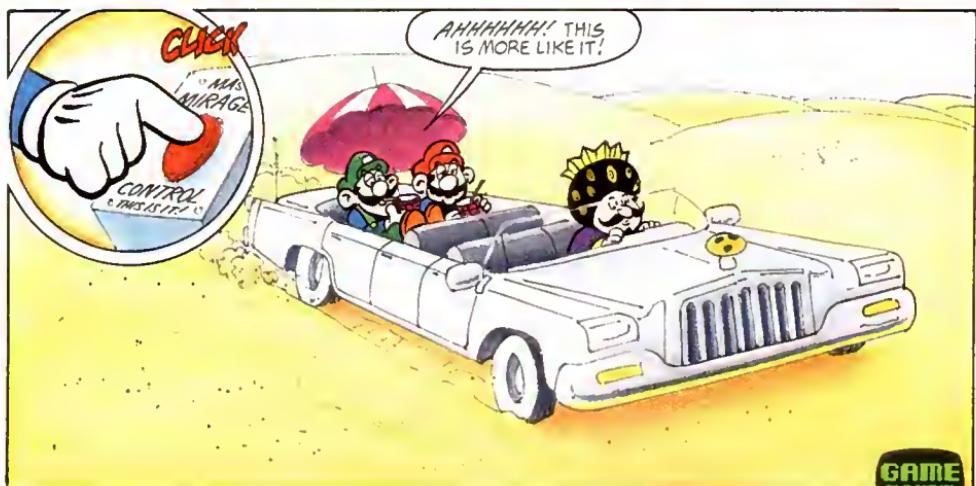
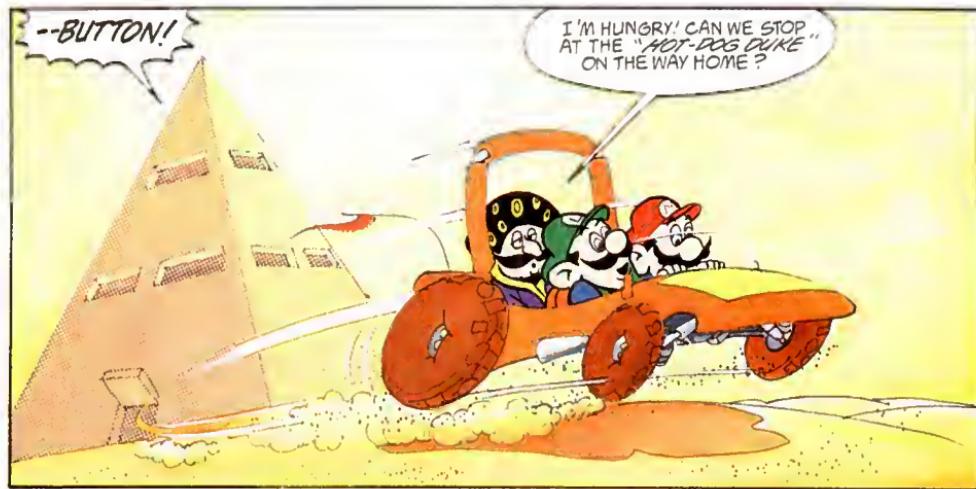












WELCOME TO VIDEOLAND

By George Corrionne, Bob Layton, Ken Lopez, Art Nichols, John Cebollero

HERE, KID! ICARUS FIES AGAINST THE FORCES OF THE UNDERWORLD!



HERE, SPACE HUNTER SAMUS ARAN BATTLES THE HORDES OF METROID.

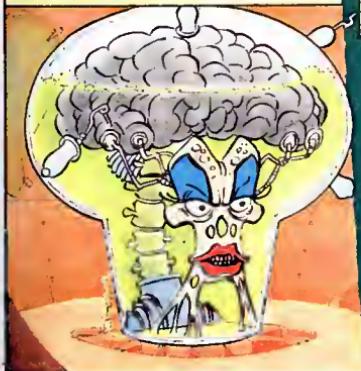


HERE, LITTLE MAC PUNCHES OUT HIS OPPONENTS ON HIS WAY TO THE TITLE!



AND HERE, THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS LANA RULES THE PALACE OF POWER IN THE ABSENCE OF HER FATHER, GOOD KING CHARLES.

ONCE, THERE WAS A BALANCE TO ALL THINGS IN VIDEOLAND. FOR EACH WORLD THERE WAS A HERO, AND FOR EACH HERO, AN ARCH-VILLAIN.



MOTHER BRAIN CHANGED ALL THAT, BY UNITING THE FORCES OF EVIL ON ALL WORLDS TO FORM A SINGLE DEADLY ALLIANCE THAT NOTHING COULD STOP!



ON THAT DAY, THE LEAGUE OF DARKNESS WAS BORN.



MOTHER BRAIN HAD TIPPED THE BALANCE OF POWER. A CHAMPION WAS NEEDED TO UNITE THE FORCES OF LIGHT! THE ULTIMATE WARP ZONE FOUND HIM...

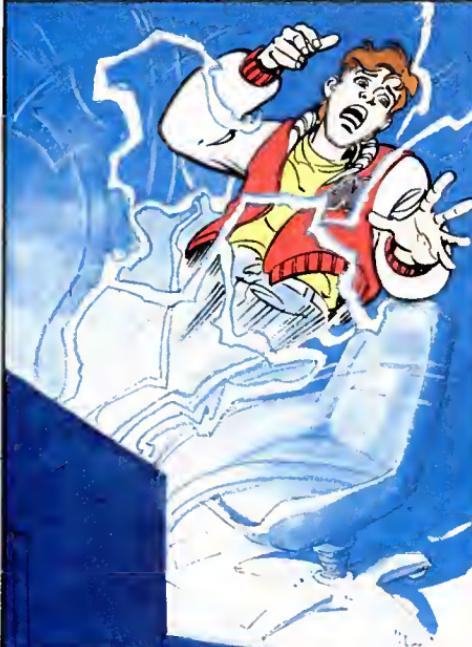
...IN NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA



KEVIN KEENE THE HOTTEST NINTENDO POWER PLAYER ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!



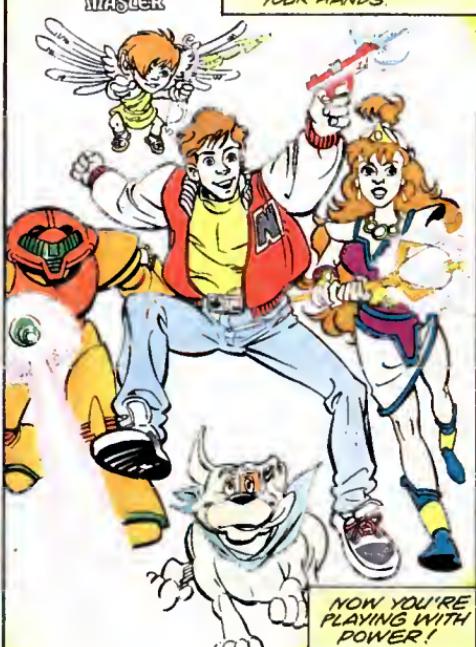
KEVIN ALONE HAD THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE VIDEO GAME WORLD NEEDED TO DEFEAT MOTHER BRAIN. KEVIN WOULD NO LONGER BE JUST ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL KID. HE WAS NOW...



Captain N

THE
GAME
MASTER

WELCOME TO VIDEO LAND,
KEVIN. WHERE THE GAMES
ARE REAL AND THE FATE
OF THE UNIVERSE IS IN
YOUR HANDS.



FROM THE PALACE OF POWER TO MOUNT OLYMPUS--! FROM METROID TO KONGOLAND--! THROUGHOUT THE MANY WORLDS OF VIDEO LAND, ALL THAT STANDS AGAINST MOTHER BRAIN AND THE FEARSOME LEAGUE OF DARKNESS IS A DARING BAND OF HEROES, THE N-TEAM, AND THEIR GREATEST CHAMPION...

Captain N

THE
**GAME
MASTER**

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS SWELL

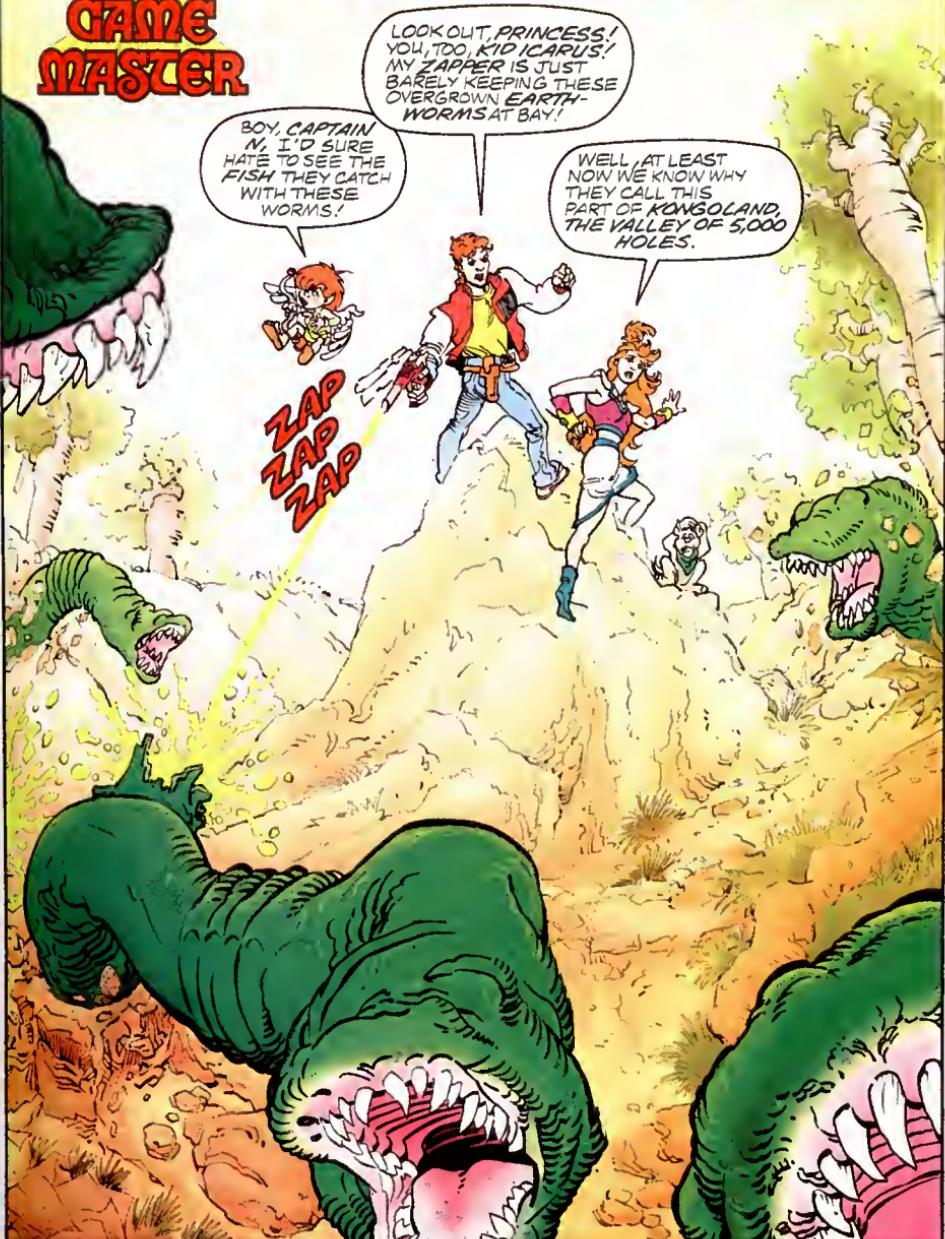
By Brian Leys, Art Nichols, Ken Loeffelholz, John Gebauer, Sean Grissom

BOY, CAPTAIN N, I'D SURE HATE TO SEE THE FISH THEY CATCH WITH THESE WORMS!

LOOK OUT, PRINCESS! YOU, TOO, KID ICARUS! MY ZAPPER IS JUST BARELY KEEPING THESE OVERGROWN EARTH-WORMS AT BAY!

WELL, AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW WHY THEY CALL THIS PART OF KONGOLAND, THE VALLEY OF 5,000 HOLES.

**ZAP
ZAP
ZAP**



SO WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE, ANYWAY? YOU HUSTLED US THROUGH A WARP PORTAL SO FAST YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TELL US WHERE WE'RE GOING.

I'M HURRYING BECAUSE I THINK I'VE FOUND THE KEY TO WINNING THE WAR WITH THE LEAGUE OF DARKNESS ONCE AND FOR ALL.



WE MADE IT. AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE WORMS WON'T COME IN HERE.

BUT THEY'VE GOT US SURROUNDED.

GOOD THINKING, CAPTAIN. YOU'VE GOT US RIGHT WHERE THEY WANT US.



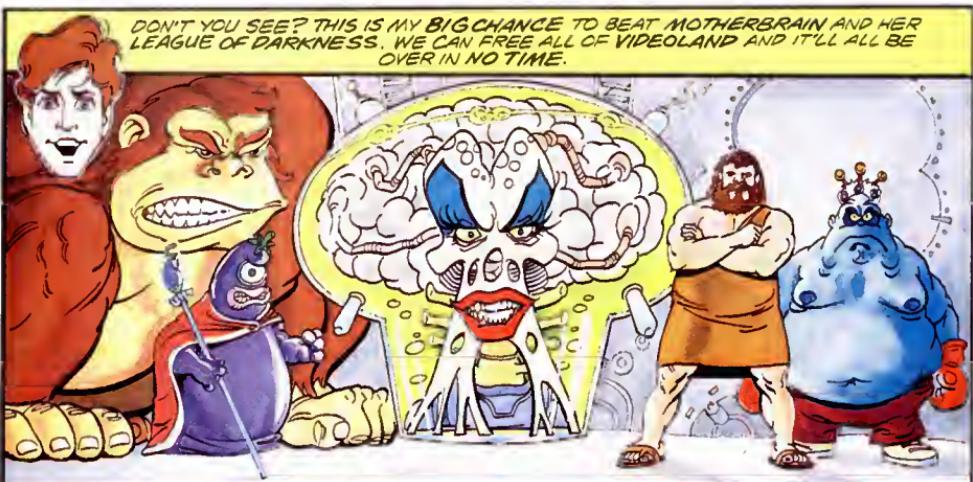
AT LEAST I'VE BOUGHT US A FEW MOMENTS TO THINK.

YOU MEAN TO THINK ABOUT BEING EATEN.

WHY DON'T YOU EXPLAIN WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE, CAPTAIN N?



I WAS GOING THROUGH SOME ANCIENT SCROLLS I FOUND IN THE PALACE OF POWER AND I FOUND THE STORY OF THE WELL OF DESPAIR. THE SCROLL SAID THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL COULD BE FOUND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL.



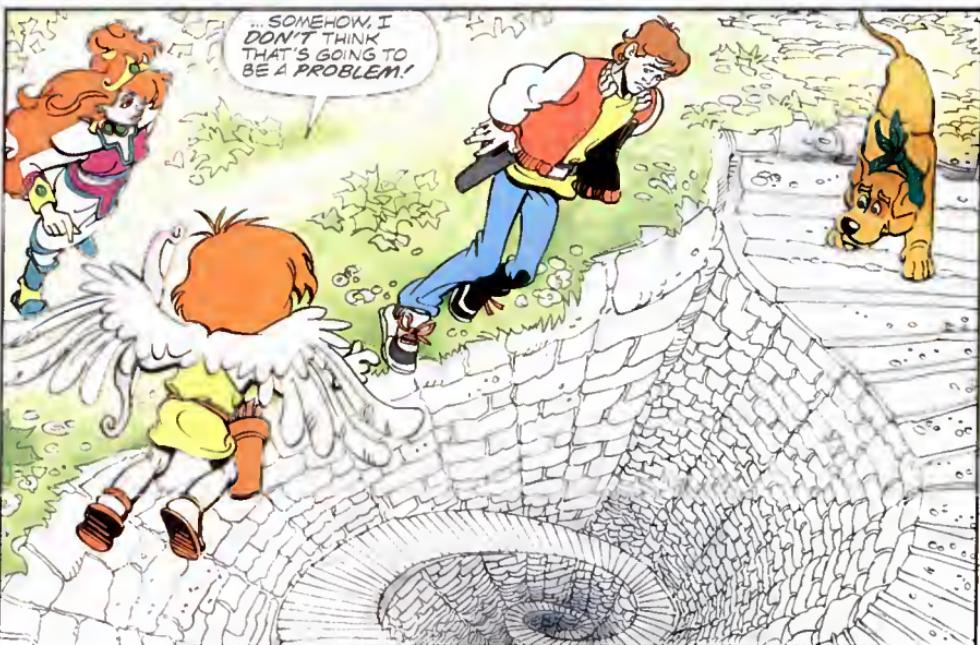
KEVIN, I'VE HEARD OF THAT WELL AND IT'S LEGENDARY WEAPON, BUT I DON'T THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA. ANY WEAPON THAT POWERFUL COULD DO UNTOOL HARM IF IT GOT OUT OF CONTROL.

BUT, PRINCESS, DON'T YOU WANT TO WIN THE BATTLE? DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR FATHER AGAIN?

OF COURSE, BUT...

ASSUMING WE FIND THE PLACE, I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT MOST OF THESE LEGENDARY WELLS HAVE A BIG NASTY...





GREAT, LET'S
GET STARTED.

TOO BAD. FIGHTING THAT
OGRE AND GETTING US
PAST THOSE GIANT WORMS
HAS GOT THE POWER
BELT PRETTY
DRAINED.



NO, I THINK WE'D
BETTER STAY
TOGETHER. THERE'S
NO TELLING HOW
FAR DOWN THE
BOTTOM IS.

IF IT HAS A
BOTTOM!



ALL WELLS HAVE
BOTTOMS...
DON'T THEY?



UH, MAYBE THE PRINCESS
WAS RIGHT. MAYBE WE
SHOULD LOOK FOR A POR-
TAL TO TAKE US HOME.

NO, NOT WHEN
THERE'S A CHANCE
TO BRING A QUICK
END TO MOTHER-
BRAIN'S VILLAINY.
BESIDES, WHAT
WOULD THE PRIN-
CESS THINK IF I
TURNED BACK NOW?



AN HOUR
LATER.

WE'RE PRETTY FAR DOWN. IT'S
GETTING KIND OF DARK. ICARUS,
SHOOT SOME FLAME ARROWS
TO GIVE US LIGHT. PRINCESS, YOU
AND DUKE BE SURE AND STICK
CLOSE TO...



...THE WALL!
EEEEEEOW!



THE TOAD-IMPS! I FORGOT THAT THEY LIVE IN WELLS.

THEY'RE BLOCKING OUR PATH. MAYBE WE BETTER RETREAT.

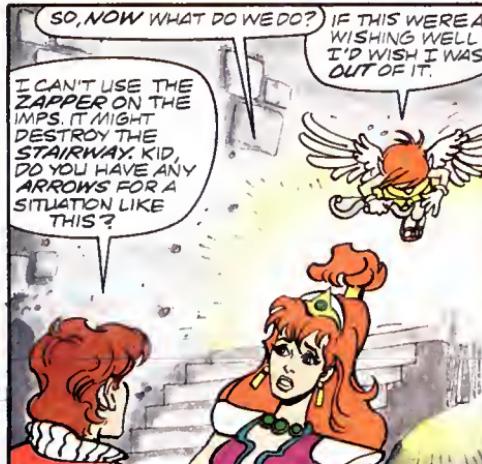
HISS
HISS

CROAK
CROAK

RUFF PUFF

I DON'T THINK SO, CAPTAIN. THE STAIRS HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARING BEHIND US AS WE GO DEEPER.

UH-OH...





THIS IS TERRIBLE.
WHAT ARE WE GOING
TO DO?

RRRRRRUFF

YOU'RE RIGHT, DUKE. WE
HAVE TO GO ON. MAYBE
WE'LL FIND THEM WHEN
WE REACH THE BOTTOM.



MUCH LATER...

BOY, DUKE, WE'VE BEEN
WALKING FOR HOURS.
MAYBE THIS WELL IS
BOTTOMLESS.

WELL, AT LEAST
THINGS CAN'T GET
ANY WORSE...



OH, NO! IT'S
MOTHERBRAIN!!!

I KNEW WE
WERE GETTING
LOW, BUT THIS
IS THE PITS!

FLATTERY
WILL GET YOU
NOWHERE.



I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME TO GET HERE, BUT FIRST, ALLOW ME TO RID US OF THIS FOUR-LEGGED FLEA-TAXI.

DUKE!

KHHHHH-YYYYY!!



YOU CLAMMY CLUMP OF CRUMMY CABLES--! YOU GIVE ME BACK MY DOG.

OHHHH, I'M AFRAID IF YOU WANT YOUR DOG, YOU'LL HAVE TO JUMP IN AFTER HIM.

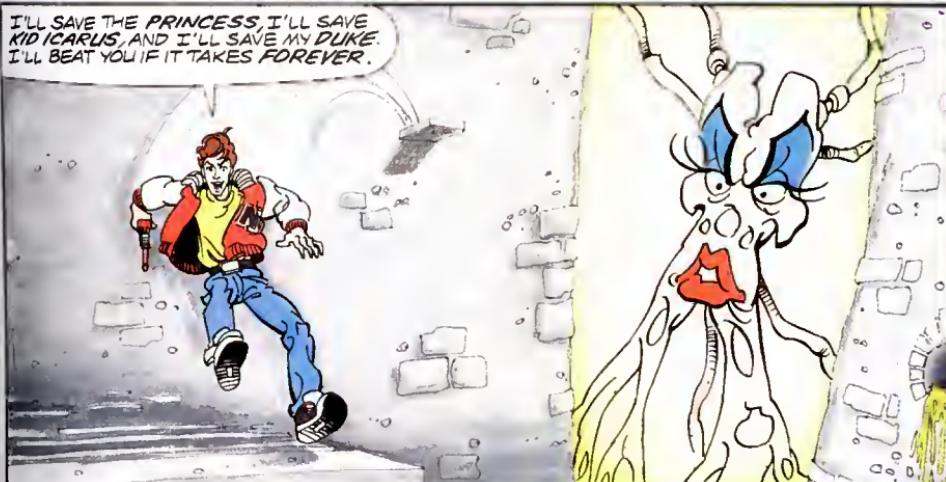
YOU SEE, ONCE YOU ENTER THE WELL OF DESPAIR, THERE'S NO WAY OUT. YOU JUST SPIRAL DOWN FOREVER BECAUSE THIS WELL HAS NO BOTTOM. IT'S THE ULTIMATE TRAP, CAPTAIN N, AND YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE IT.



WRONG, MOTHERBRAIN. I'LL NEVER GIVE UP. I DON'T CARE HOW DEEP THIS WELL IS. I DON'T CARE HOW MANY DANGERS YOU THROW IN MY WAY.



I'LL SAVE THE PRINCESS, I'LL SAVE KID ICARUS, AND I'LL SAVE MY DUKE. I'LL BEAT YOU IF IT TAKES FOREVER.



ZAP!



I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE WELL. YOU SAW ME BEFORE AS A WORM-OGRE, BUT THIS IS MY TRUE FORM. MOTHERBRAIN IS GONE. YOU DEFEATED HER WHEN YOU SHOWED COURAGE, EVEN AT THE BRINK OF DESPAIR. THAT IS THE TEST OF THE WELL, AND YOU PASSED.

BY THE WAY, CAPTAIN N, YOU PACK A MEAN LEFT HOOK.

THEN, COURAGE IS THE GREAT WEAPON TO BE FOUND IN THE WELL?

AH, NO! COURAGE IS THE KEY, AND KEVIN SHOWED PLENTY OF THAT. BUT THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL IS PATIENCE. THAT IS THE SECRET TO BE FOUND IN THE WELL, THAT PERSISTENCE WILL ALWAYS TRIUMPH OVER DESPAIR.



SO, ALL THINGS COME TO HE WHO WAITS?

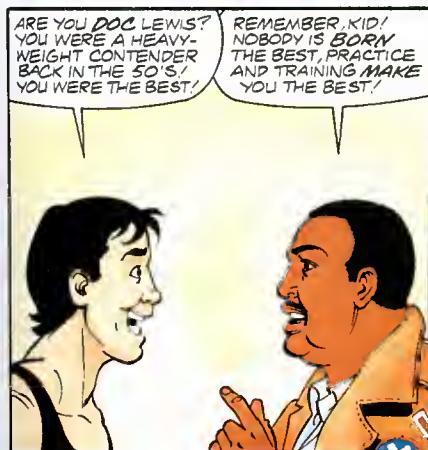
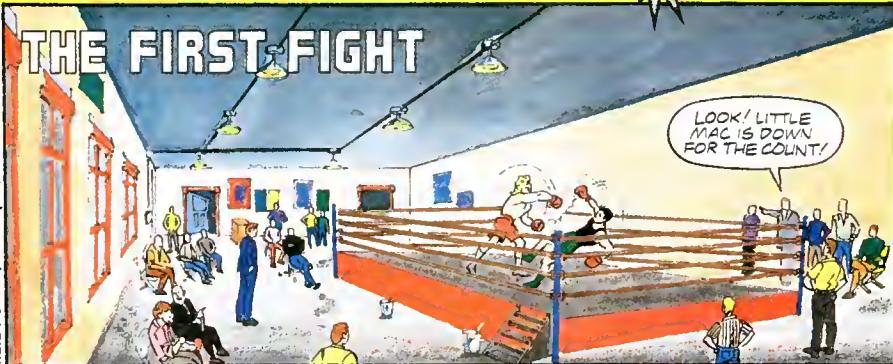
WHAT A CLEVER WAY OF PUTTING IT! ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU THE WAY HOME.

CAPTAIN N, DOES THIS MEAN THAT VICTORY MUST WAIT UNTIL ITS TIME?



WHY NOT? AFTER ALL, VIDEOLAND WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY!





AND SO...

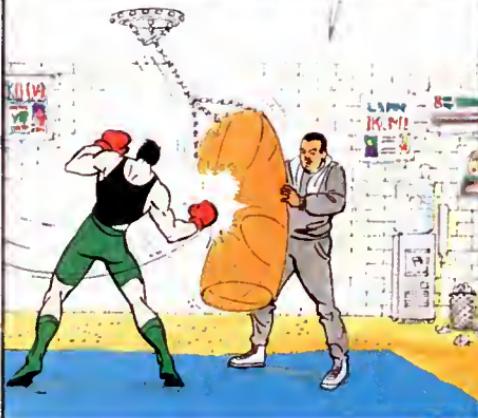
THEY CALL BOXING THE
"SWEET SCIENCE", MAC!
AND I'M GOING TO TEACH
YOU EVERYTHING THERE
IS TO KNOW ABOUT IT!



ONLY THE BEST MAKE IT IN
THE RING! IT'S A HARD
CLIMB TO THE TOP! IT'S A
BATTLE JUST TO SURVIVE!



YOU GOTTA BE FAST! THAT'S IT, MAC!
YOU GOTTA BE STRONG! YOU'RE READY!



STICK AND MOVE!
NOW! PUT HIM AWAY!

HERE'S A LITTLE
SOMETHING I OWE
YOU!



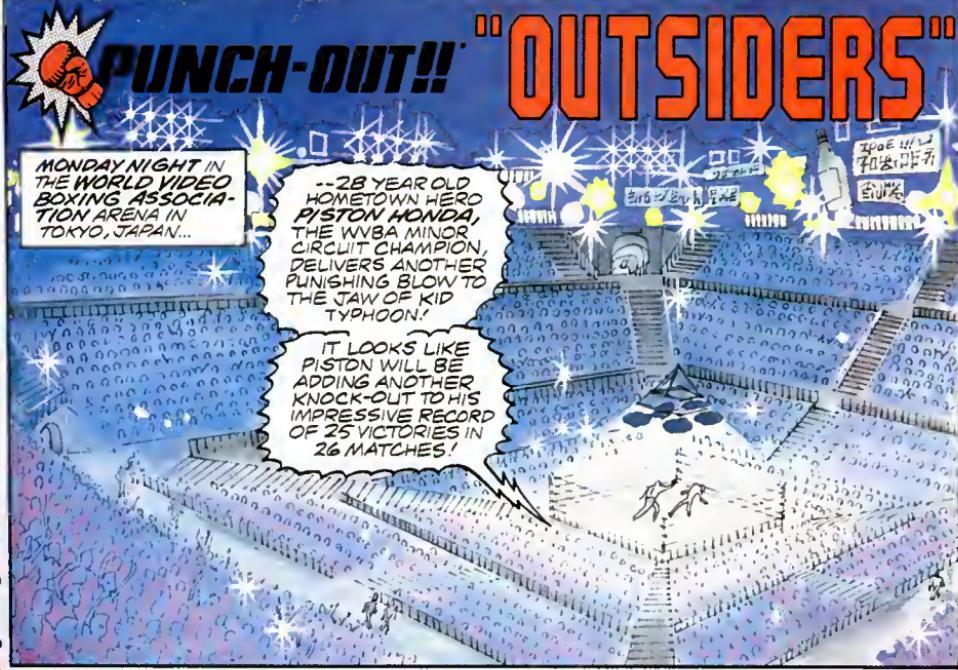
YOU DID IT,
MAC! YOU
DID IT!

NO WAY,
DOC! WE
DID IT!

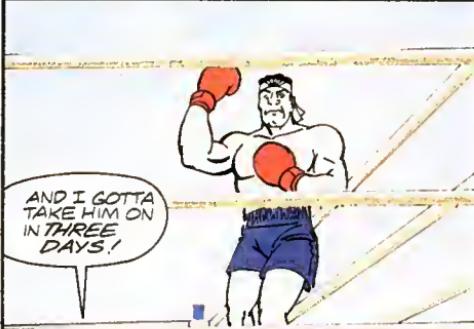


GAME
OVER

IN THE "SWEET SCIENCE" CALLED BOXING, IT'S A HARD CLIMB TO THE TOP! ASK A LITTLE GUY WITH A BIG HEART FROM THE BRONX, NEW YORK... HIS NAME IS MAC.



MEANWHILE, AT RINGSIDE, LITTLE MAC AND HIS TRAINER, DOC LEWIS WATCH THIS AWESOME DISPLAY!



TUESDAY MORNING...

INSIDE THE VAST SPORTS ARENA, MAC IS LOST...

MY DRESSING ROOM WAS
SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE...

WHAM
POW

I FOUGHT
VERY WELL,
EH, SENSEI?

*SENSEI? THAT'S "COACH" IN JAPANESE... SORT OF

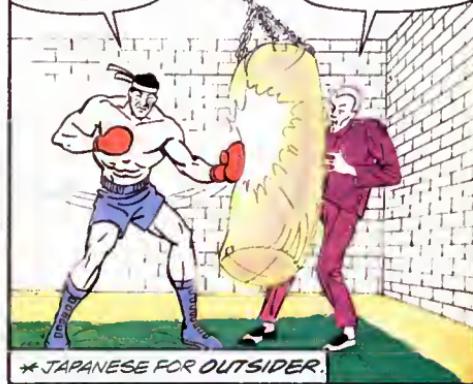
AS ALWAYS, YOUR SKILL AND POWER BRING
ME GREAT HONOR, PISTON-SAN*. THE
PRIZE MONEY YOU WON LAST NIGHT WILL
BUILD A NEW HOSPITAL IN THE POOR VILLAGE
OF KANJI.



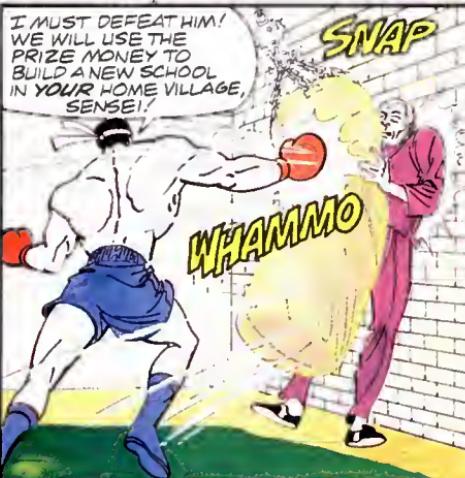
*IN JAPAN, YOU ADD "SAN" TO SOMEONE'S NAME
TO SHOW RESPECT. TRY IT ON YOUR FRIENDS.

IN THREE DAYS
I FIGHT THE
GANTIN* LITTLE MAC!

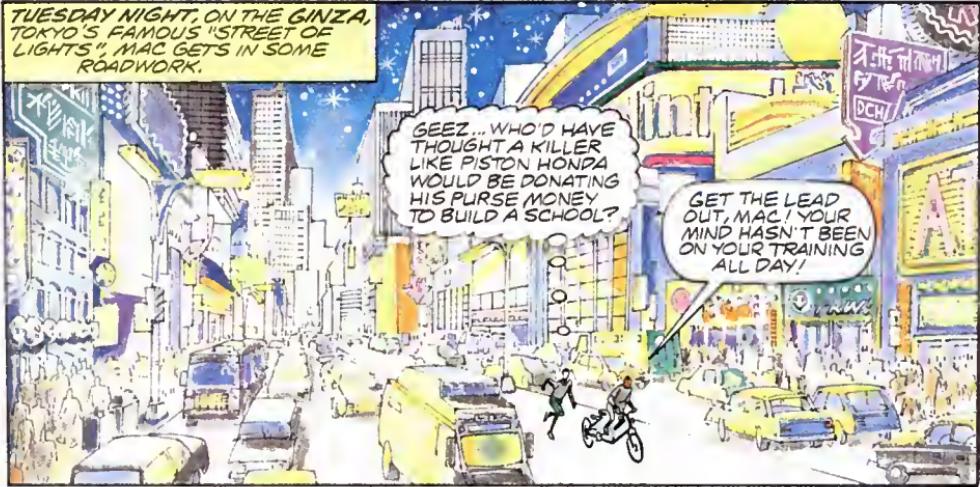
MAC IS THE
#1 CONTENDER!
A FORMIDABLE
OPPONENT!



*JAPANESE FOR OUTSIDER.



TUESDAY NIGHT, ON THE GINZA,
TOKYO'S FAMOUS "STREET OF
LIGHTS," MAC GETS IN SOME
ROADWORK.



LATER, BACK AT
ARENA...

EXCUSE ME,
MR. SENSEI,
SIR? I'M SORRY
TO BOTHER
YOU...

YOU ARE
LITTLE MAC,
THE AMERICAN
FIGHTER!

YES, SIR. UM... I KNOW THAT YOUR
GUY, PISTON, IS FIGHTING TO GET
MONEY TO BUILD A SCHOOL IN
YOUR VILLAGE...



A VERY GENEROUS
OFFER, BUT WE
CANNOT ACCEPT
CHARITY FROM AN
OUTSIDER.

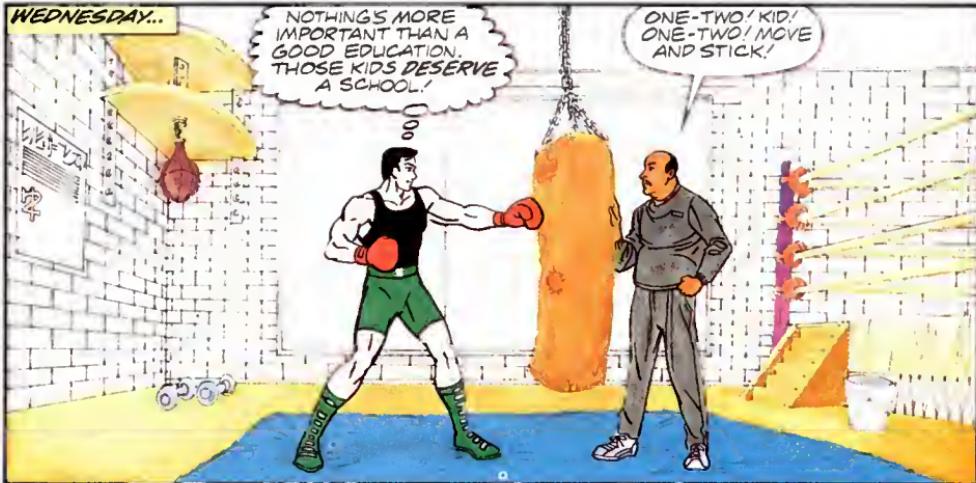
BUT...
GEE...!



WEDNESDAY...

NOTHINGS MORE
IMPORTANT THAN A
GOOD EDUCATION.
THOSE KIDS DESERVE
A SCHOOL.

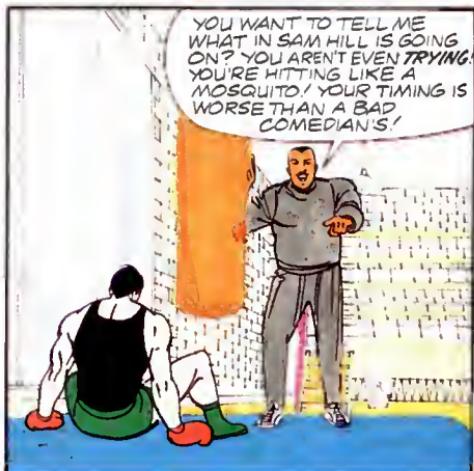
ONE-TWO! KID!
ONE-TWO! MOVE
AND STICK!



THINK
FAST!

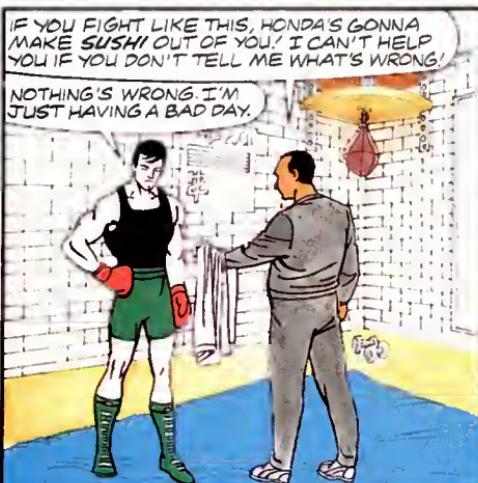


YOU WANT TO TELL ME
WHAT IN SAM HILL IS GOING
ON? YOU AREN'T EVEN TRYING.
YOU'RE HITTING LIKE A
MOSQUITO! YOUR TIMING IS
WORSE THAN A BAD
COMEDIAN'S!



IF YOU FIGHT LIKE THIS, HONDA'S GONNA
MAKE SUSHI OUT OF YOU! I CAN'T HELP
YOU IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG!

NOTHING'S WRONG. I'M
JUST HAVING A BAD DAY.



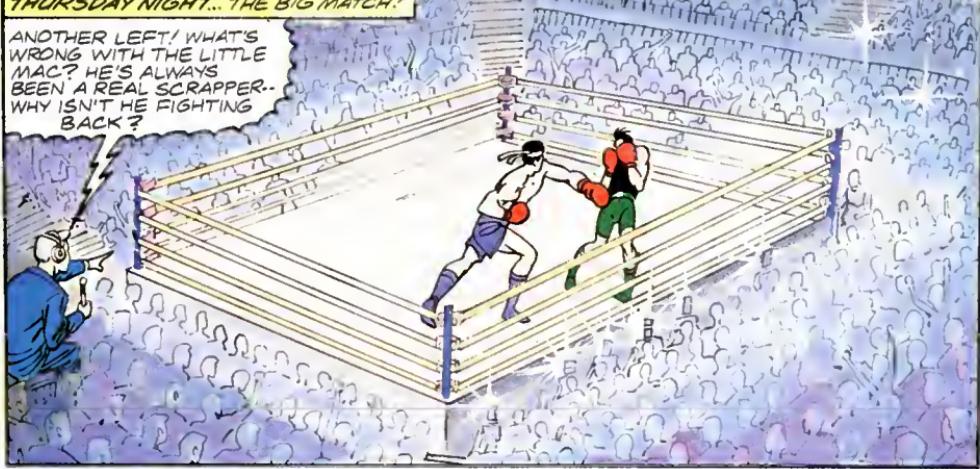
I'LL DO BETTER
TOMORROW,
DOC...

THERE IS NO
TOMORROW!

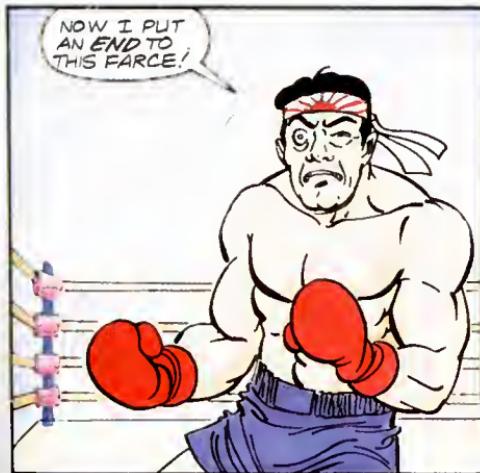


THURSDAY NIGHT... THE BIG MATCH!

ANOTHER LEFT! WHAT'S
WRONG WITH THE LITTLE
MAC? HE'S ALWAYS
BEEN A REAL SCRAPPER-
WHY ISN'T HE FIGHTING
BACK?



NOW I PUT
AN END TO
THIS FARCE!

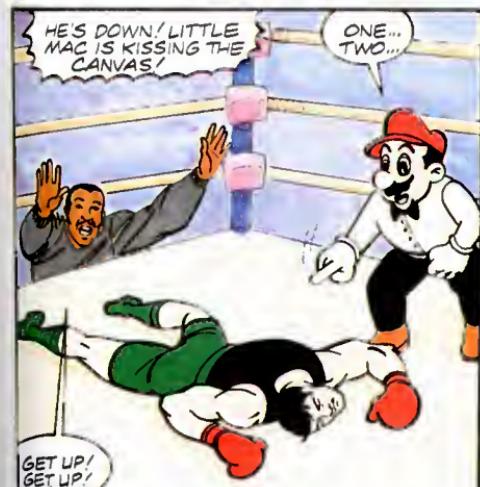


WHAMM



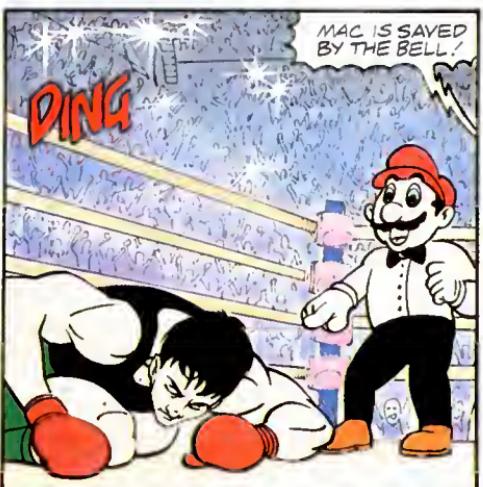
HE'S DOWN! LITTLE
MAC IS KISSING THE
CANVAS!

ONE...
TWO...



MAC IS SAVED
BY THE BELL!

DING



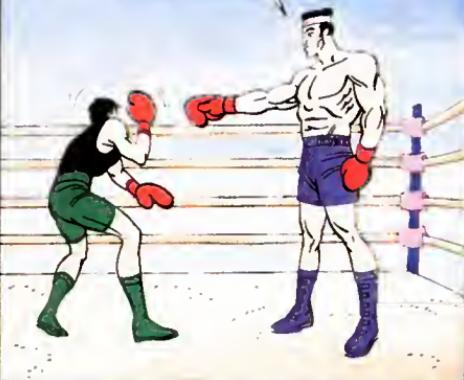
ROUND TWO...

...AND THIS ROUND HAS
BEEN NO DIFFERENT FROM
THE FIRST! MAC JUST WON'T
FIGHT BACK! HOW MUCH
LONGER CAN HE TAKE IT?



STOP THE
FIGHT!

THIS MAN IS A COWARD! HE WILL NOT
FIGHT BACK! THERE IS NO HONOR IN
BEATING HIM!



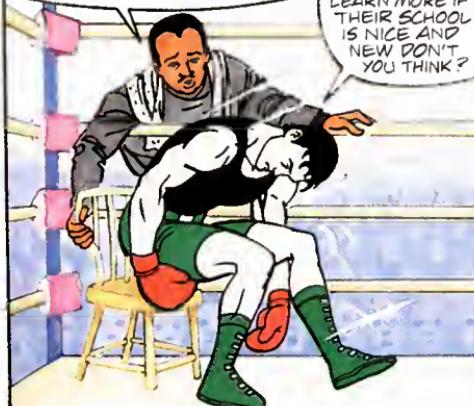
DING

AND THAT ENDS THE SECOND
ROUND! WITH ONLY ONE ROUND
TO GO, WHAT CHANCE DOES THE
CHALLENGER HAVE?



WHAT'S WITH YOU, MAC? YOU'RE FIGHTING LIKE YOUR MIND'S A MILLION MILES AWAY!

I WAS THINKING, DOC... KIDS PROBABLY LEARN MORE IF THEIR SCHOOL IS NICE AND NEW DON'T YOU THINK?



THIS AIN'T A PTA MEETING, KID. THINK ABOUT THROWING SOME LEATHER.

UNLESS... WHAT YOU'RE THROWING... IS THE FIGHT.

NO! BUT-- BUT...

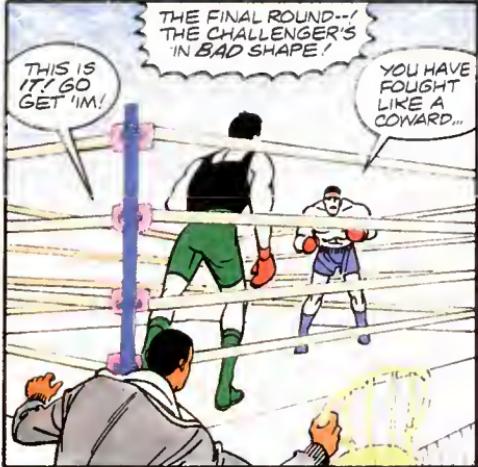


NO BUTS, MAC. YOU GOTTA DO YOUR BEST. THEN, IF YOU LOSE-- AT LEAST YOU STILL GOT YOUR HONOR!



THE FINAL ROUND-- THE CHALLENGER'S IN BAD SHAPE!

YOU HAVE FOUGHT LIKE A COWARD...

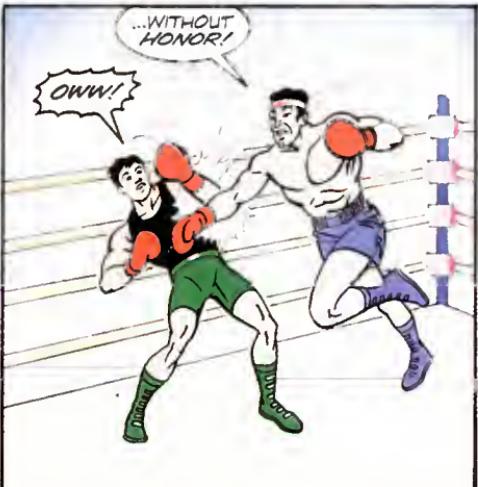


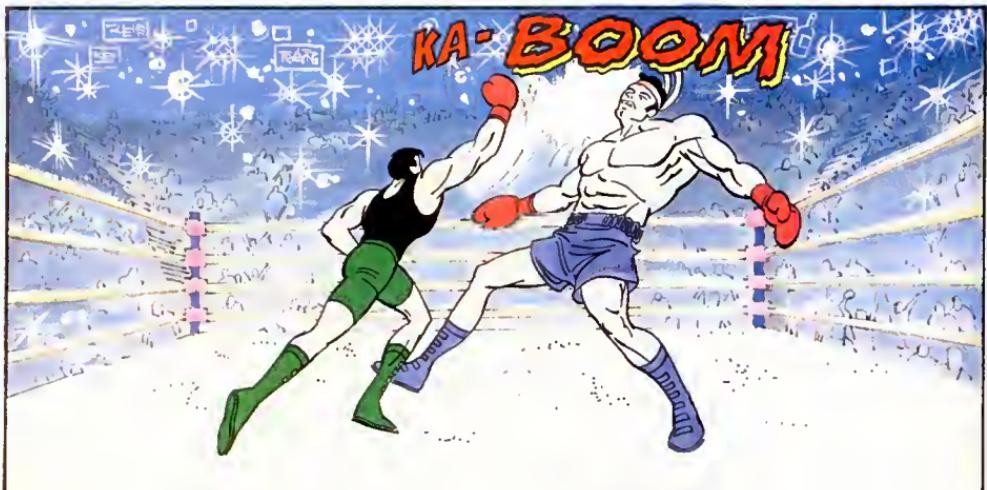
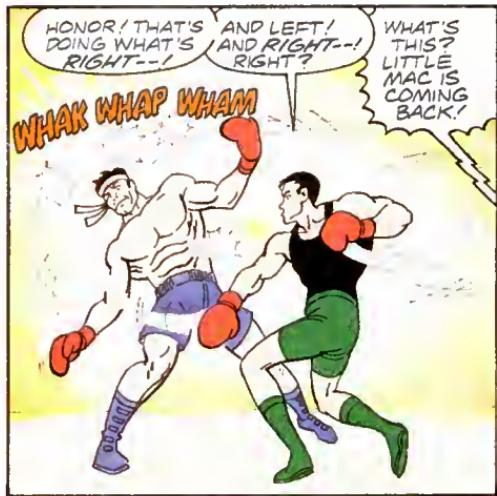
NOW, YOU WILL FALL...



...WITHOUT HONOR!

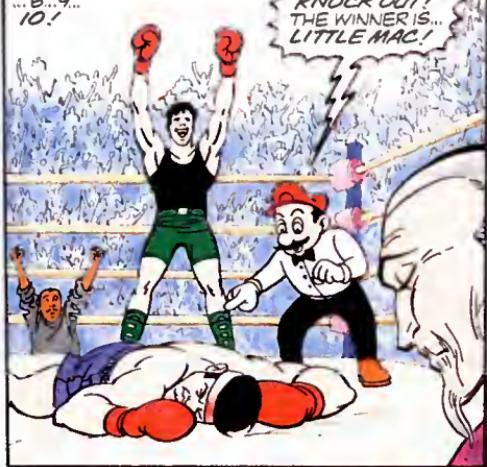
OWW!





...8...9...
10!

KNOCK OUT!
THE WINNER IS...
LITTLE MAC!



LATER, OUTSIDE THE ARENA...

THIS IS A
MIGHTY
BIG FIST
FULL OF
YEN,
DOC!

YOU EARNED
IT, MAC! THAT
WAS SOME
FIGHT!



YOU!
OUTSIDER!

WE HAVE
A SCORE
TO SETTLE!

NO ONE BEATS
OUR BELOVED
CHAMPION AND
GETS AWAY
WITH IT!



RUN FOR IT,
DOC! I'LL
HOLD 'EM
OFF!

NO
WAY!

GET
THEM!

STOP!



IS IT NOT ENOUGH
THAT I HAVE
FAILED IN THE
RING? MUST YOU
NOW DISGRACE
ME AS WELL?

BEGONE!

SAY, YOU'RE
AN OKAY
JOE!

THANKS, PISTON--
YOU REALLY SAVED
OUR BACON!

NO THANKS
ARE NECESSARY!
I SALUTE YOUR
SKILL AND
COURAGE!

AS DO I,
MAC-SAN!

YOU DID WHAT
WAS RIGHT,
THOUGH I KNOW
YOUR HEART
WAS TORN. THIS
IS HONOR

IF YOU EVER
VISIT MY
VILLAGE,
YOU WILL
STAY IN MY
HOME AS
ONE OF MY
OWN FAMILY.

IF I'M A MEMBER
OF YOUR FAMILY,
THEN...I'M NOT
AN OUTSIDER
ANYMORE, RIGHT?

SO, IT'S OKAY FOR
YOU TO USE MY
PRIZE MONEY TO
BUILD A SCHOOL IN
OUR VILLAGE!

HMM.

COME ON, DOC!
I'VE STILL GOT
A COUPLE OF YEN
IN MY POCKET--
LET'S GO DOWN
TO THE GINZA
AND GET SOME
SUSHI!

RAW FISH?!

NAH. HOW
ABOUT SOME
NICE HOT
KIMOSUI?!

GAME
OVER

* JAPANESE FOR EEL'S LIVER SOUP, READER-SAN.

The story beginning on the next page is a special one. It was created on stage in front of the news and TV cameras during a press conference at which the Nintendo Comics System was announced to the world. In order to make their work easier to photograph, the artists drew the pictures at a larger size than usual and used darker ink to draw in the backgrounds.

"The Fish That Should've Gotten Away" is the **first** story ever created for the Nintendo Comics System. We thought you'd like to know that you're reading a piece of comics history!



The press conference took place at New York's glitzy **Palladium** last January, and was attended by scores of media people!



Artists at work.



A special guest drops by.

SUPER MARIO BROS. 3

THE FISH THAT SHOULD'VE GOTTEN AWAY

FRYGUYS,
SHYGUYS,
CLAWGRIPS,
SPARKS...

IT'S COMFORTING
TO KNOW NOTHING
ELSE CAN GO
WRONG TODAY!



HI! I'M STANLEY,
THE TALKING FISH!

I SPOKE TOO SOON. NOW I HAVE
TO LISTEN TO A FISH!



I'M GOING TO SEE
MY BEST GAL BARBARA
TONIGHT!

WHY ARE YOU TELLING
ME THIS? I'M BUSY!

I THINK I CAN
GRAB A FINGER. I
THINK I CAN...



WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE?
SHE'S A BUSH. WHAT
BRANCHES SHE HAS!
WHAT FOLIAGE!

DON'T LISTEN TO
HIM, MARIO. HE'LL
TALK YOUR EAR OFF.

SPEAKING
OF WHICH...

SNAP!

OUCH!
GO AWAY!



I THINK SHE LIKES
ME ... BUT DOES SHE
LIKE-LIKE ME?

GREAT. AN
INSECURE
FISH

NOT TO BE RUDE,
BUT I'M REALLY
BUSY RIGHT NOW!

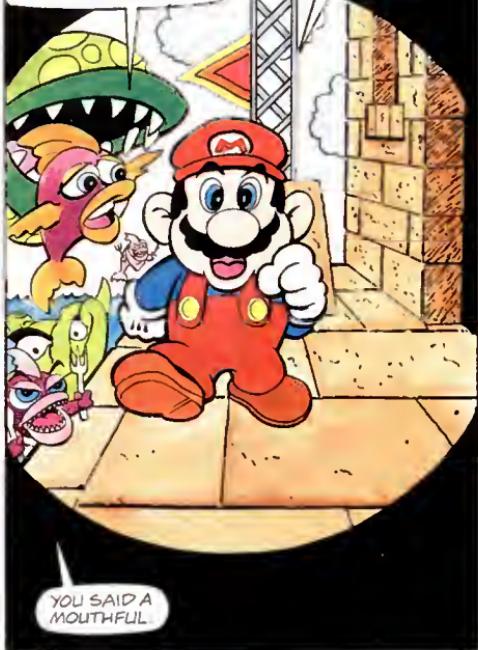
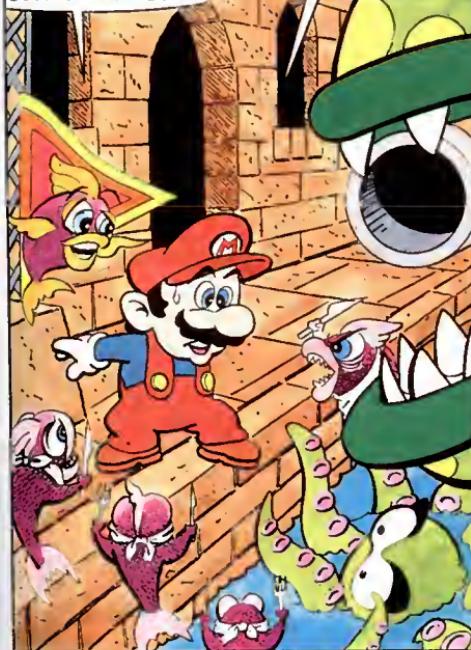


C'MON. I AM A GOOD-
LOOKING GUY, RIGHT?
I THINK YOU'RE A
GOOD-LOOKING GUY...

YOU'RE A FISH. WHAT
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT
GOOD LOOKS?

BUT HOW DO I LET THE
OTHER BUSHES KNOW THAT
BARBARA IS THE ONLY
ONE FOR ME?

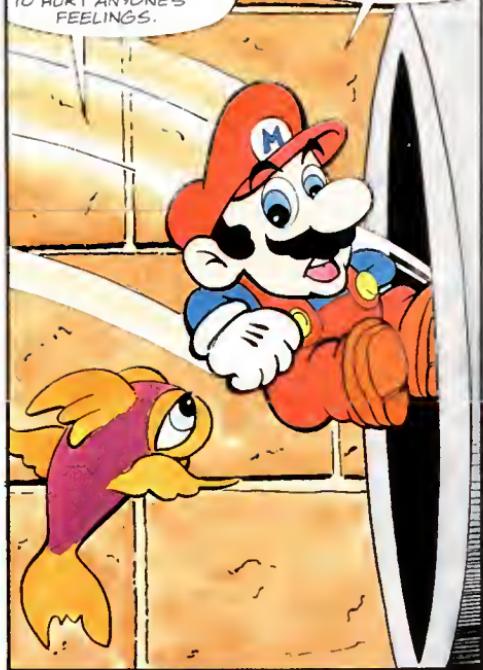
TELL THEM "LEAVE ME
ALONE, I'M A STUPID
FISH!"



YOU SAID A
MOUTHFUL

DO YOU THINK THEY'LL BUY IT? I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE'S FEELINGS.

MY GUESS IS...YES! NOW GOOD-BYE!



HUH! A FISH WHO THINKS HE'S CUTE SUAVE, HANDSOME...

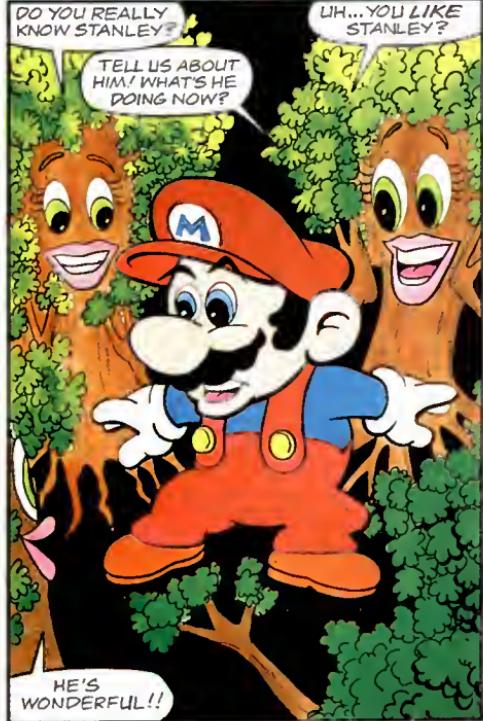
HANDSOME? SUAVE? HE'S TALKING ABOUT STAANLEY!!!



DO YOU REALLY KNOW STANLEY?

UH...YOU LIKE STANLEY?

TELL US ABOUT HIM! WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?

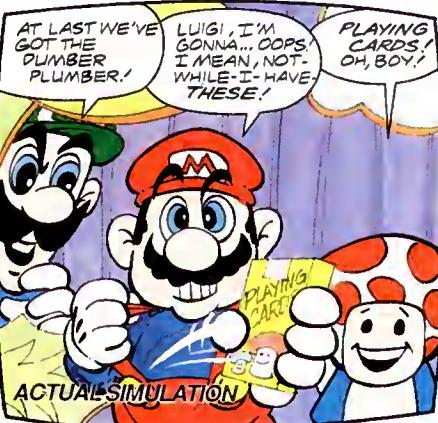


DO I KNOW STANLEY? OF COURSE! TAUGHT HIM EVERYTHING HE KNOWS!

I'M FAINTING!



HE'S WONDERFUL!!

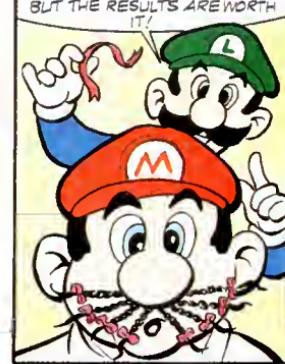


the MARIO BROS. GUIDE TO GROOMING YOUR MOUSTACHE

SOMETIMES YOU SPEND HOURS LOOKING FOR JUST THE RIGHT FASHION STATEMENT. AND SOMETIMES IT'S RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!

WHO SAYS A MOUSTACHE CAN'T BE MORE THAN A SCRAGGLY BUSH OF WHISKERS? NOT THE MARIO BROTHERS!

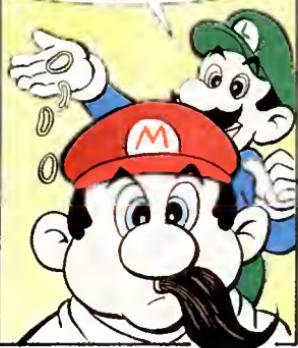
BRAIDING SOMETHING AS SMALL AS A MOUSTACHE MAY TAKE A LITTLE PRACTICE... BUT THE RESULTS ARE WORTH IT!



THE PONYTAIL IS ANOTHER BIG FAVORITE! FROM ROCKIN' ROLLERS TO STOCKBROKERS--OR EVEN PLUMBERS--THIS STYLISH STATEMENT SAYS, "HEY, LOOK AT ME!"

IF MARILYN MONROE HAD GROWN A MOUSTACHE, IT WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE THIS...

HELLO, DALI! SOMETIMES A LITTLE MOUSTACHE WAX IS ALL YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR POINT! SUR-REALLY!



SOME OF THE SILVER SCREEN'S GREATEST LOVERS SPOTTED THE DASHING "PENCIL" MOUSTACHE! IF YOU'VE EVER HAD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT GROWING A MOUSTACHE, THIS WILL SURELY ERASE THEM!

OF COURSE, SOMETIMES THE VERY BEST EFFECTS REQUIRE EXTRA EFFORT!

COME BACK, LUIGI! DON'T YOU WANT TO TRY THE "BILLIARD BALL" LOOK? OR HOW ABOUT THE "ELECTRIC BLENDER" LOOK?



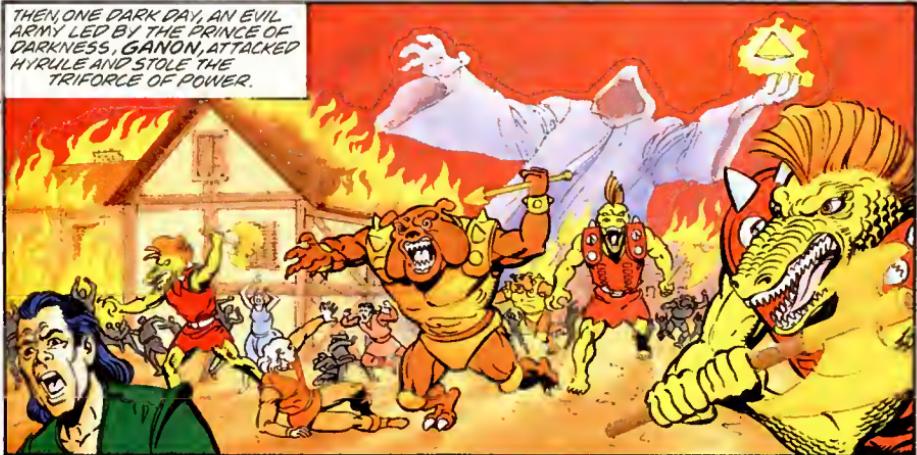
ALONG TIME AGO...

IN THE KINGDOM OF HYRULE, A LEGEND WAS HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

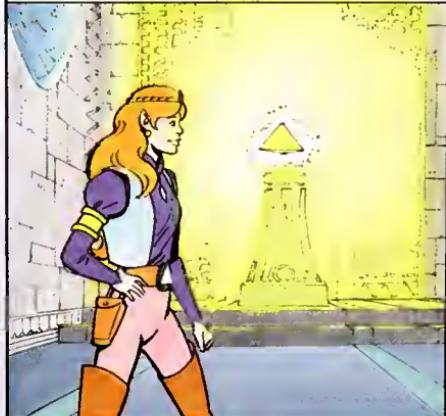
THE LEGEND OF THE THREE TRIFORCES, EACH ONE POSSESSING GREAT MYSTIC ENERGY. ONE FOR WISDOM, ONE FOR POWER, AND ONE FOR COURAGE.



THEN, ONE DARK DAY, AN EVIL ARMY LED BY THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS, GANON, ATTACKED HYRULE AND STOLE THE TRIFORCE OF POWER.



ZELDA, THE PRINCESS OF HYRULE, MANAGED TO SAVE THE TRIFORCE OF WISDOM, KNOWING THAT IF GANON EVER POSSESSED THE TRIFORCES OF WISDOM AND POWER, HE WOULD RULE THE LAND FOREVER.



THE THIRD TRIFORCE, COURAGE, REMAINED HIDDEN FOR A REASON. ONLY A MIGHTY HERO, POSSESSING SPECIAL POWERS AND A STRONG CHARACTER, WOULD BE ABLE TO DISCOVER IT.

ZELDA SENT HER LOYAL NURSEMAID IMPA TO FIND THIS HERO...



IMPA FOUND THIS HERO, A YOUNG ADVENTURER NAMED LINK WHO HAD COME TO HYRULE IN SEARCH OF EXCITEMENT, FAME AND ROMANCE.



HE WOULD FIND ALL THREE AND HE WOULD CARRY THE TRIFORCE OF COURAGE IN HIS HEART.



...BUT AS LINK TOO WOULD SOON DISCOVER...



...THINGS IN HYRULE DON'T GO QUITE THE WAY YOU EXPECT.



AND THUS THE LEGEND ENDS AND THE ADVENTURE BEGINS...



GAME OVER

A LONG TIME AGO, THE WORLD WAS IN AN AGE OF CHAOS. THERE WAS A LAND CALLED HYRULE, A LEGEND CALLED ZELDA, AN ADVENTURER CALLED LINK, AN EVIL KNOWN AS GANON AND THE THREE TRIFORCES, THE POWER OVER THEM ALL.

The Legend of ZELDA

ASSAULT

ZELDA!!

HANG ON, PRINCESS! YOUR HANDSOME HERO IS HERE!

OKAY, VILE VILLAINS! WHO WANTS TO TASTE AN ARM'S LENGTH OF COLD STEEL?

LINK! HELP! GET ME OUTTA HERE!

HUH?



YOU MANIAC! WHY CAN'T YOU EVER BE CAREFUL? I COULD HAVE BEEN SQUASHED FLAT!

GEE! SORRY, MIFF!



YOU DIDN'T EVEN LOOK TO SEE IF I WAS OUT OF RANGE OF FLYING DEBRIS!! BASH! RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!

OUCH! OUCH! EASY, MIFF! EASY! I THOUGHT ZELDA MIGHT BE IN HERE! WHEN ZELDA'S IN DANGER, I GET... WELL... CARRIED AWAY...



STOP CHARGING AROUND WITHOUT THINKING, LINK! WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN A TRAP?

HEY, LIGHTEN UP, MIFF! I GOT US PAST THOSE MOBLINS AND GHINIS OUTSIDE!



YOU GOT LUCKY! THERE ARE THINGS DOWN HERE THAT MAKE THEM LOOK LIKE A PICNIC IN THE PALACE!

YEAH! YEAH! JUST SHOW IT TO ME AND I'LL SLICE IT UP!



ELSEWHERE INSIDE DEATH MOUNTAIN...

SOON, PRINCESS ZELDA, I WILL ADD YOUR TRIFORCE OF WISDOM TO MY TRIFORCE OF POWER-- AND RULE HYRULE FOREVER!

NEVER, GANON! NOT SO LONG AS LINK LIVES!



I-I'M SORRY, MASTER! THE ADVENTURER, LINK, PASSED MY OUTPOST. I TRIED TO DESTROY HIM, BUT FAILED!

HE SMASHED MY ENTIRE PACK OF BROTHERS IN MOMENTS! AND I, I ALONE ESCAPED TO TELL YOU!

NOT CAPTURING HIM, WELL... THAT'S ANOTHER THING ALTOGETHER.

MASTER... NOOOOOOO!

ARISE, FAITHFUL MOLBLIN! I FORGIVE YOU FOR NOT DESTROYING LINK.





EXCELLENT, VIRE! TAKE HIM TO THE FIRST HOLDING ZONE... CAREFULLY!



NOW THEN! WHAT METHOD OF DESTRUCTION SHALL I EMPLOY FOR LINK. THE GLEEKOFIRE? NO... TOO QUICK!

ROPE WORMS? AH, HE WOULD FAINT FROM THE PAIN ALMOST INSTANTLY, I FEAR!

PERHAPS EATEN ALIVE BY MANHANDLA...

PLEASE DON'T KILL HIM.



I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING!

BAH! YOU HAVE NOTHING I WANT...



...EXCEPT--THE TRIFORCE OF WISDOM!

WILL YOU TRADE THE TRIFORCE OF WISDOM FOR THE LINK'S LIFE?



YES



YOU WOULD
ACTUALLY
DO IT, WOULDN'T
YOU?

AND THUS BOTH
TRIFORCES WOULD
BE MINE... AT
LAST!

BUT... NO!!

LET'S DO THIS THE MORE
ENJOYABLE WAY. I'LL FIND
YOUR TRIFORCE AND SIMPLY
TAKE IT... AFTER I DESTROY
YOU BOTH!



I'LL FIND A WAY TO STOP YOU! YOU
MISERABLE CREATURE! I SWEAR
BY EVERYTHING I HOLD DEAR!

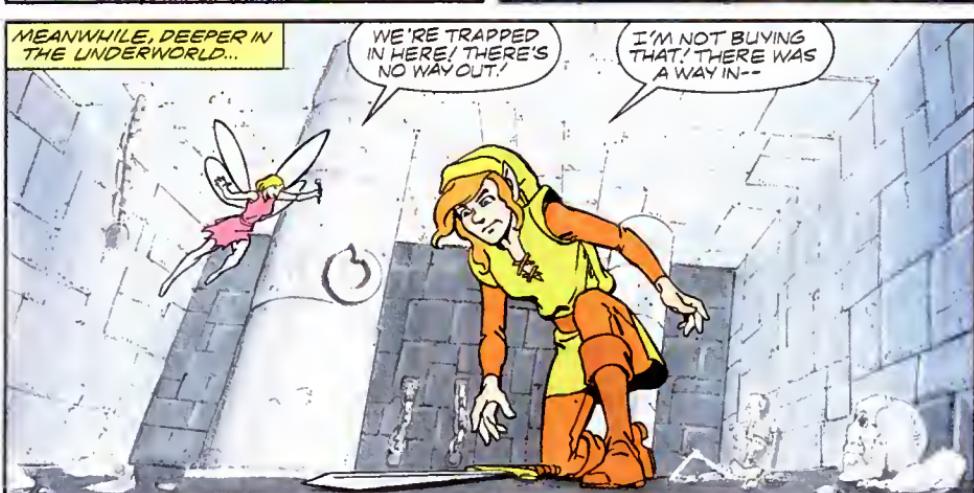
AH... BUT, MOMENTS AGO,
YOU OFFERED TO BETRAY
EVERYTHING YOU HOLD
DEAR!

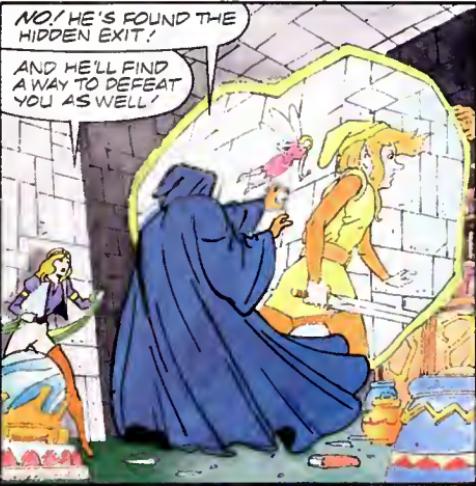
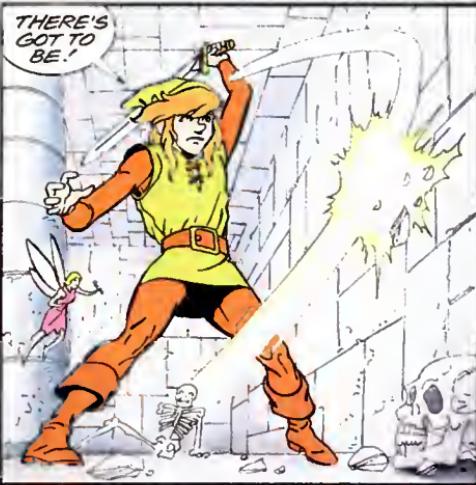


MEANWHILE, DEEPER IN
THE UNDERWORLD...

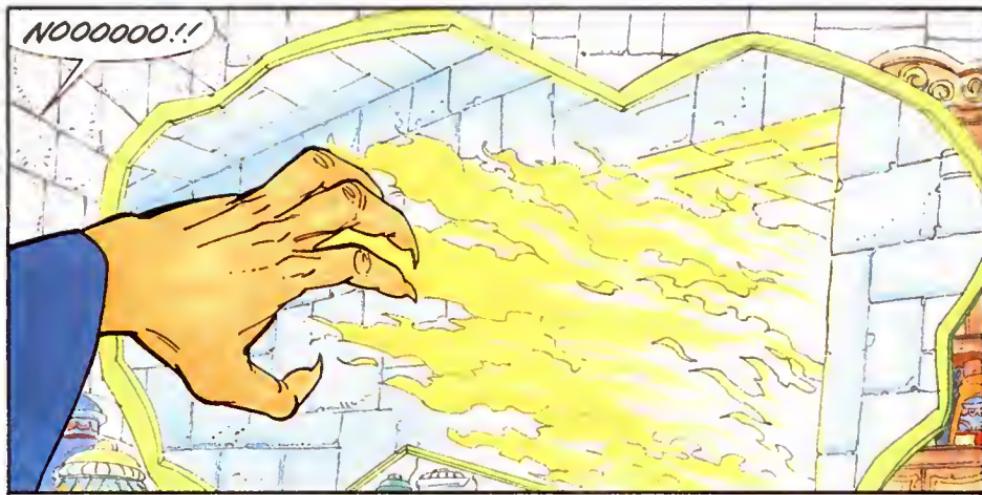
WE'RE TRAPPED
IN HERE! THERE'S
NO WAY OUT!

I'M NOT BUYING
THAT! THERE WAS
A WAY IN--





NOOOOOO!!!



W-WHAT HAPPENED
TO HIM?

MY UNDERWORLD
BEASTS HAVE
DESTROYED HIM!
CHEATED ME OF MY
REVENGE!

NO! HE
CAN'T BE--

DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS!
WHEN I RETURN, YOU WILL
BE JOINING HIM!

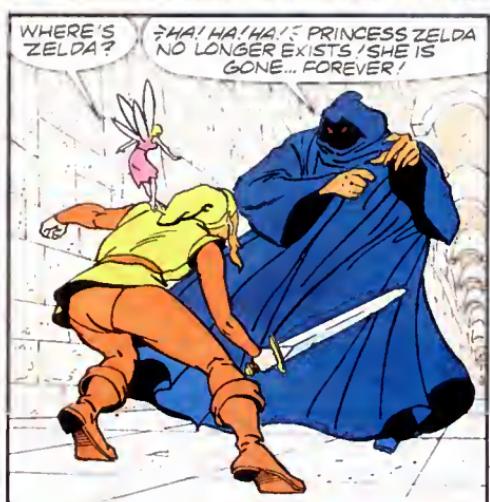


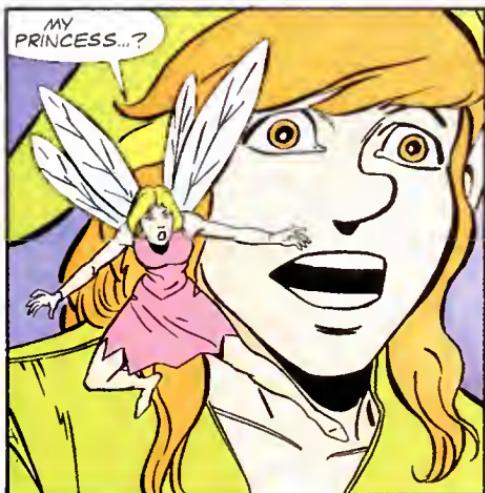
PERHAPS SO, GANON...
BUT NOT BEFORE I
MAKE YOU PAY!

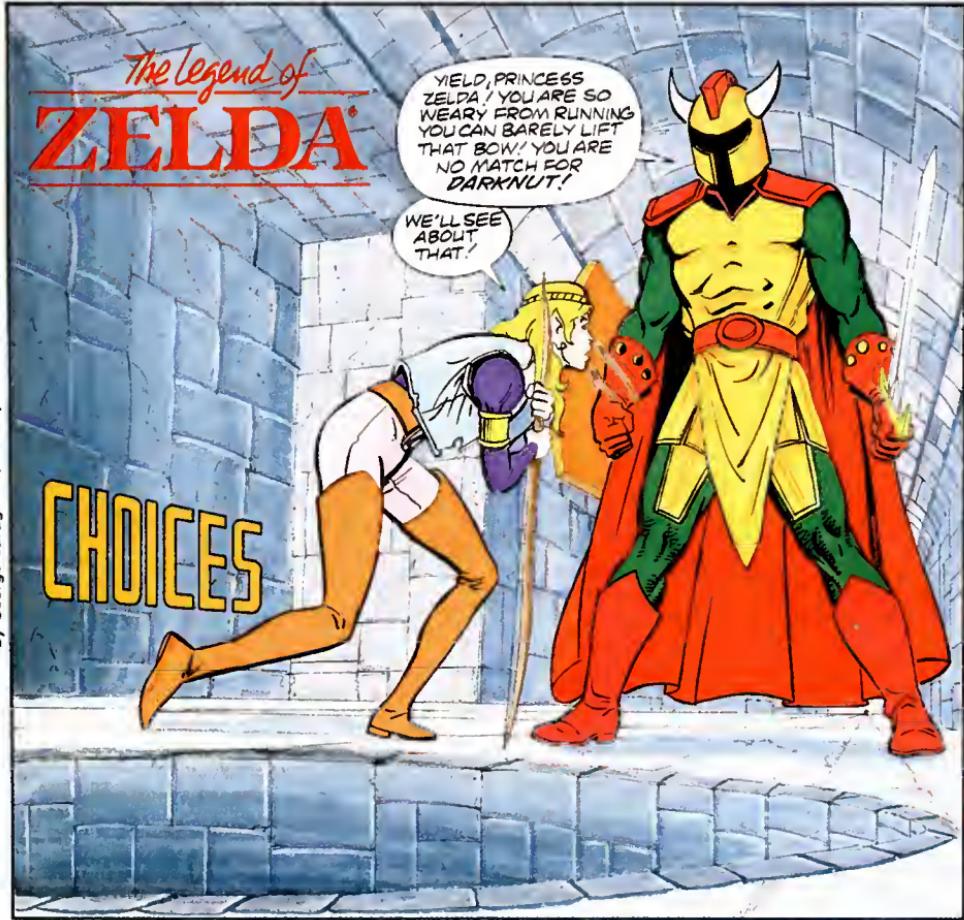
NO TELLING HOW
MUCH TIME I HAVE
BEFORE HE
RETURNS...

HAVE TO WORK FAST--
USE ALL THE MAGIC
IMPA TAUGHT ME ON
THESE CHAINS!











CAN'T PULL MYSELF UP. JUST TOO TIRED.

HMP. I'M THE ONE WHO ALWAYS TOLD LINK, 'NEVER GIVE UP! YOU'RE NEVER BEATEN UNTIL YOU GIVE UP!!'



I DID IT, LINK!
-GASP!- I DID IT!



LINK WOULD BE PROUD OF ME.
BUT... LINK IS GONE. HE CAME TO
DEATH MOUNTAIN TO SAVE ME AND
GANON'S CREATURES...
DESTROYED HIM...

IF ONLY THERE WAS
A WAY TO MAKE
GANON PAY.



HUH...
WHAT'S



A SILVER ARROW... OF COURSE! I REMEMBER!

BUT IMPA, SURELY GANON IS NOT INVINCIBLE?

NO, INDEED, MY CHILD. JUST AS EVIL HAS MANY FACES, GANON HAS MORE THAN ONE WEAKNESS.



THE TRIFORCE OF WISDOM CAN DEFEAT HIM?

NO! THE TRIFORCE OF WISDOM IS NOT A WEAPON, BUT IT CAN GRANT YOU WISDOM THAT WILL HELP YOU USE THE WEAPONS OF TRUTH AND LIGHT!

FIND A SILVER ARROW. IF YOUR HEART IS TRUE, THE TRIFORCE WILL HELP YOU USE IT TO DESTROY GANON.

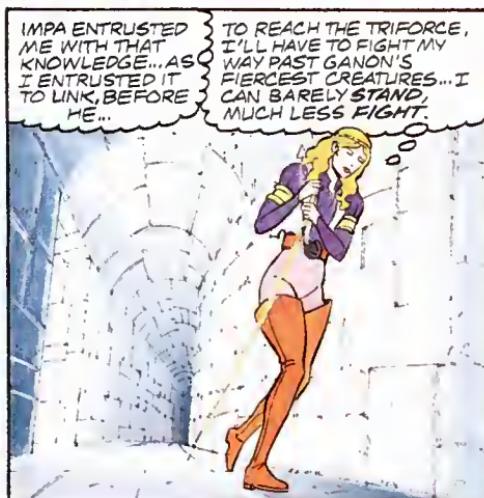


IMPA ENTRUSTED ME WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE... AS I ENTRUSTED IT TO LINK, BEFORE HE...

TO REACH THE TRIFORCE, I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT MY WAY PAST GANON'S FIERCEST CREATURES... I CAN BARELY STAND, MUCH LESS FIGHT.

BUT, I WILL NOT GIVE UP, EVEN IF IT MEANS MY LIFE.

FOR YOU, LINK! GANON MUST BE STOPPED, NO MATTER WHAT.



AT THAT MOMENT, NOT FAR AWAY...

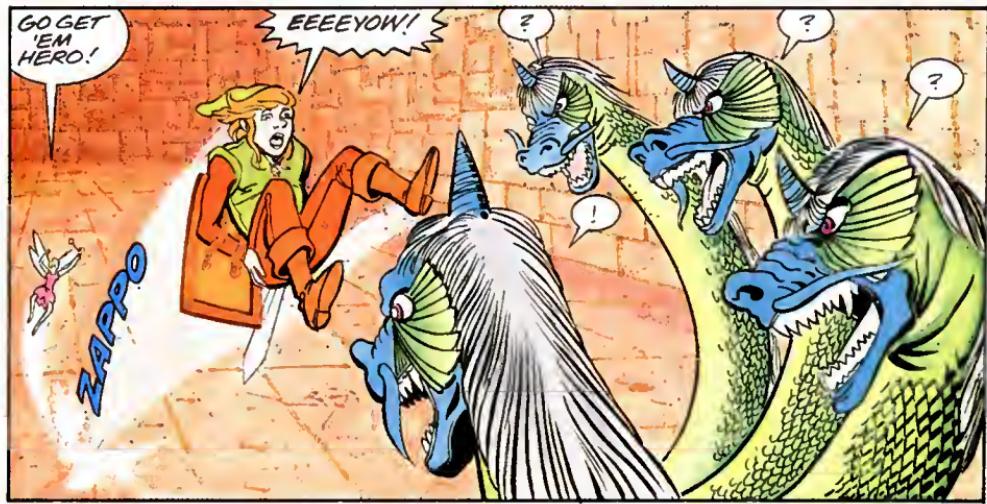
LINK! I THOUGHT
YOU SAID GETTING
THE TRIFORCE
WAS NO
PROBLEM!

HEY, A GLEEK IS NO
PROBLEM! A FOUR HEADED
GLEEK...

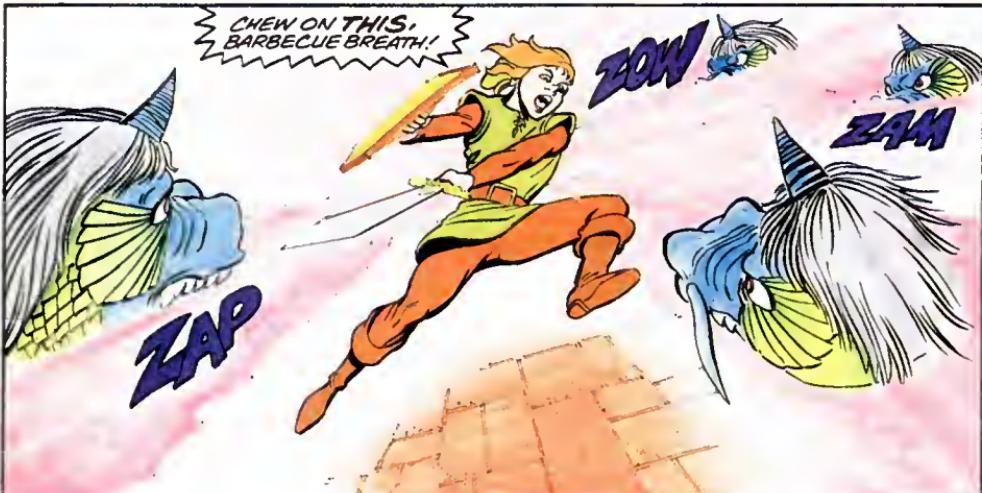
...THAT'S SOMETHING
ELSE!

WHAT DO WE
DO, MIFF?

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN WE?



SO TIRED.. TRIFORCE
SHOULD BE JUST--
AHEAD...



NOT BAD, HUH? SOMETIMES
I AMAZE EVEN MYSELF!

DON'T LET IT GO
TO YOUR HEAD



JUST ONCE, MIFF, WOULD
YOU RELAX?

I'LL RELAX
WHEN WE FIND
PRINCESS
ZELDA!



ALL THE ADVENTURERS IN
HYRULE, AND I GET STUCK
WITH-YEOWLPP!

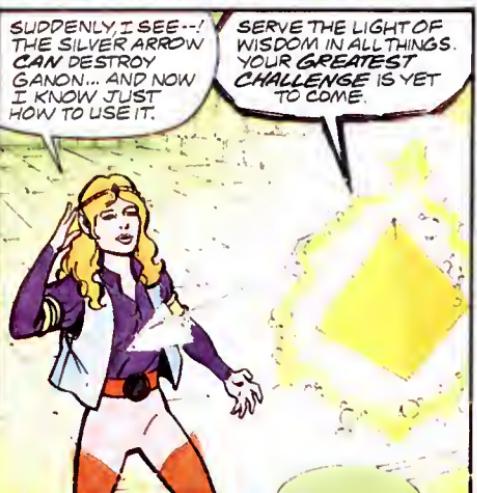


WHAT HIT
THIS
PLACE?



THE TRIFORCE
OF WISDOM.





SOON...
GANON!

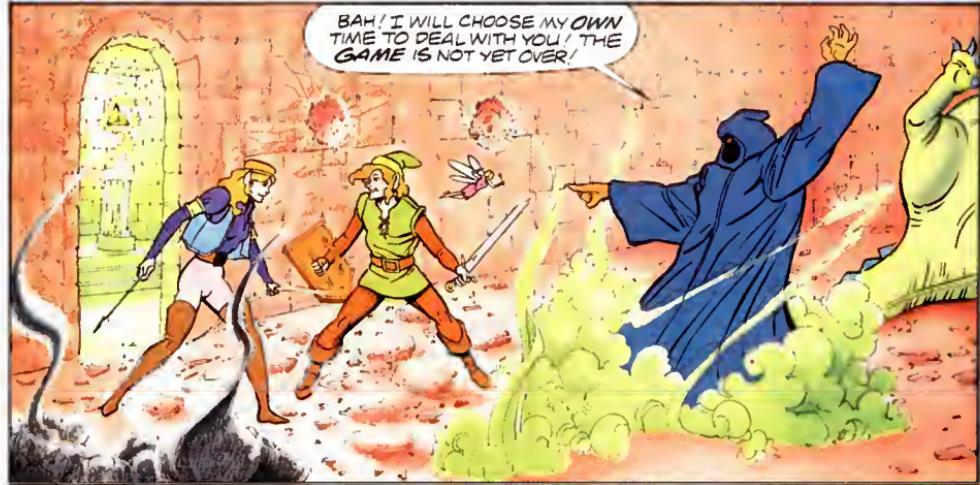
AH... MY FOOLISH PRINCESS! I
KNEW THIS IS WHERE YOU'D
RUN AFTER ESCAPING ME.

I MUST THANK YOU. YOU HAVE
REMOVED THE MAGIC SEAL
FROM AROUND THE TRIFORCE!
NOW IT'S MINE FOR THE TAKING!

GANON, THE ONLY THING
YOU'RE GOING TO GET
IS JUSTICE!

THAT ARROW!
HOW DID YOU--





GAME OVER

SUPER
MARIO BROS.

the ADVENTURES OF
DIRK DRAIN-HEAD'



THEY SENT ME YOUR MAGAZINE BY MISTAKE!

DON'T EVERYONE OFFER TO HELP AT ONCE.



I GAVE YOU UP FOR LOST!!!

MARIO, WE TALKED AN HOUR AGO, REMEMBER?



REMEMBER? YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT YOUR MAG--

GET YOUR GRIMY MEAT HOOKS OFF OF MY MAG, LUIGI!



IT'S HERE! "THE ADVENTURES OF DIRK DRAIN-HEAD"!!!! THE WORLD'S FIRST TWO-FISTED ACTION PLUMBER!!!

HOW CAN ANYONE GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT DIRK DRAIN-HEAD...?



...ESPECIALLY WHEN EVERYONE KNOWS THAT "BARONESS BLUE BLOOD", THE CHEERFUL CHAMPION OF SOCIAL STATUS, IS THE ONLY MAGAZINE WORTH READING IN OUR GENERATION!!

IF THEY DON'T SEND THE NEXT ISSUE SOON, IT WON'T MAKE THIS GENERATION!

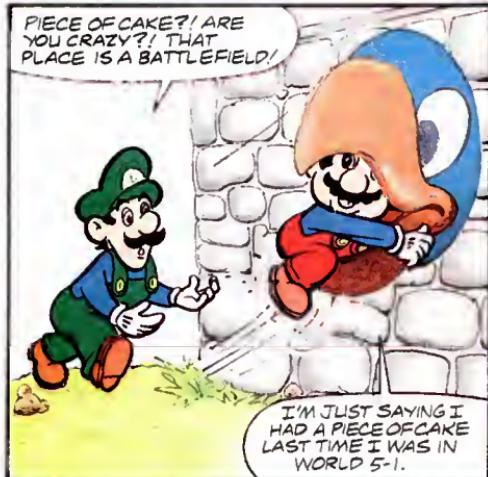
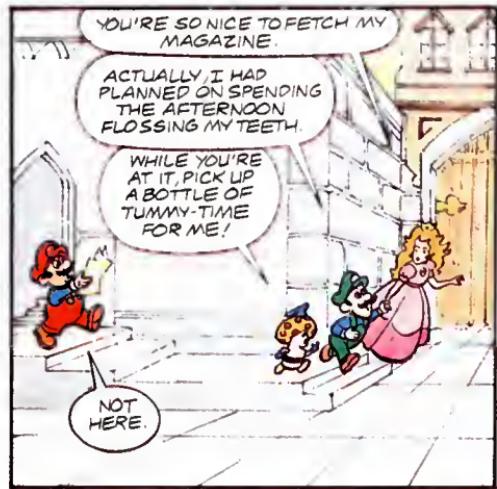


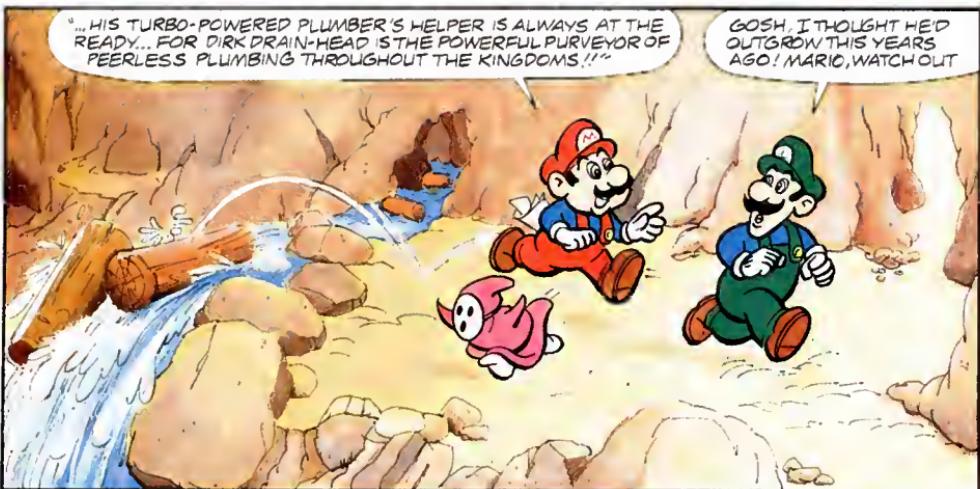
WHY, I SAW THE LATEST ISSUE OF BARONESS BLUE BLOOD AT THE NEXT KINGDOM'S COMIC BOOK SHOP THE OTHER DAY. YOU SEE, I WAS PICKING UP SOME TUMMY-TIME STOMACH MEDICINE...

WHAT--? WOULD YOU GO THERE FOR ME??!

THE LIGHT'S NOT RIGHT HERE. I HAVE TO PICK THE PERFECT SPOT FOR OPTIMUM READING SATISFACTION.







WELL, IF YOU HAD THE
SPARKLING REFLEXES
OF DDIRK DRAIN-HEAD--

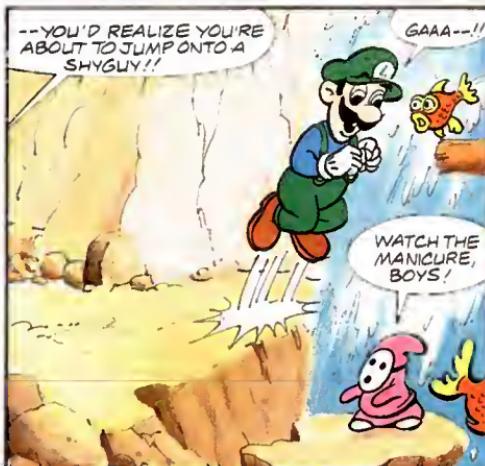
YEAH?! WHAT
ABOUT OLD DDIRK
DRAINED-HEAD?



--YOU'D REALIZE YOU'RE
ABOUT TO JUMP ONTO A
SHYGUY!!

GAAA---

WATCH THE
MANICURE,
BOYS!

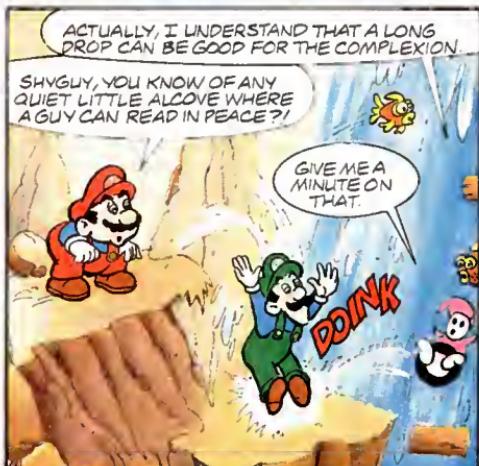


ACTUALLY, I UNDERSTAND THAT A LONG
DROP CAN BE GOOD FOR THE COMPLEXION.

SHYGUY, YOU KNOW OF ANY
QUIET LITTLE ALCOVE WHERE
A GUY CAN READ IN PEACE?!

GIVE ME A
MINUTE ON
THAT.

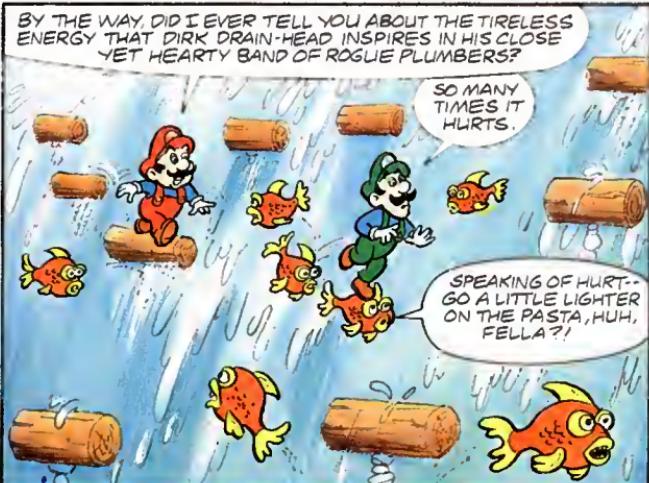
DOINK



BY THE WAY, DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIRELESS
ENERGY THAT DDIRK DRAIN-HEAD INSPIRES IN HIS CLOSE
YET HEARTY BAND OF ROGUE PLUMBERS?

SO MANY
TIMES IT
HURTS.

SPEAKING OF HURT--
GO A LITTLE LIGHTER
ON THE PASTA, HUH,
FELLA?!



OKAY, THE ROUGH
PART'S OVER.
SMOOTH SAILING
FROM HERE ON
IN.

AS DDIRK
DRAIN-HEAD
WOULD
SAY--



AAAAAAUULUGHHH!!!!!!

HAH! PATHETIC
PLUMBERS ARE NO
MATCH FOR ANCIENT
NINJI TRAINING.



HA! NONE DARE
TARRY WITH THE
CRONIES OF DIRK
DRAIN-HEAD!!!

I'M GLAD THAT MAGAZINE
ONLY COMES OUT
QUARTERLY.

WELL, IN OUR
TRAINING, WE
DON'T USE ANY
SISSEY PIPE
WRENCHES!!!!



HEY, MY TOOTH'S LOOSE!
WHAT'S THE DEPENDABLE
ON OUR MUTUAL OF KOOPA
DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN?

THIS REMINDS ME OF THE TIME
THE NEGATIVE-ENERGY ROBOTS
FROM GALAXY #8 DARED TO
SPOIL DIRK'S SURPRISE PARTY.
WHAT A BROUHAHA--!

I'M GLAD THAT
MAGAZINE ONLY
COMES OUT
QUARTERLY.



MARIO, HAVE I EVER
TOLD YOU THAT YOU
DRIVE ME CRAZY?

THAT'S GREAT!
DIRK DRIVES HIS
BROTHER CRAZY,
TOO!



LET'S TAKE A REALITY
BREAK--THERE'S A
SHYGUY BEHIND
YOU!!

WHAT?



OH, I FINALLY THOUGHT OF A QUIET PLACE FOR YOU TO READ--OVER BY THE PIRANHA PLANTS OF WORLD 7?

YEAH, BUT
THEY FIRE
THOSE
FLAMING PODS...



DID I MENTION THAT I COULD HAVE EASILY PICKED UP THE PRINCESS'S MAGAZINE YESTERDAY?

BESIDES, IT'S LOUD, THE PLANTS ARE CRANKY AND COMPLAINING ALL THE TIME...

YEAH, WHAT'S YOUR POINT, MARIO?

I DON'T THINK I WANT TO RISK MY LIFE FOR A STUPID MAGAZINE!!



I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE,

HOW ABOUT THE LAVA PITS ON 4-1?

MAYBE, BUT MY SKIN WOULD PEEL OFF, MY HAIR WOULD MELT -- AND WORST OF ALL, IT MIGHT DAMAGE MY MAGAZINE!!

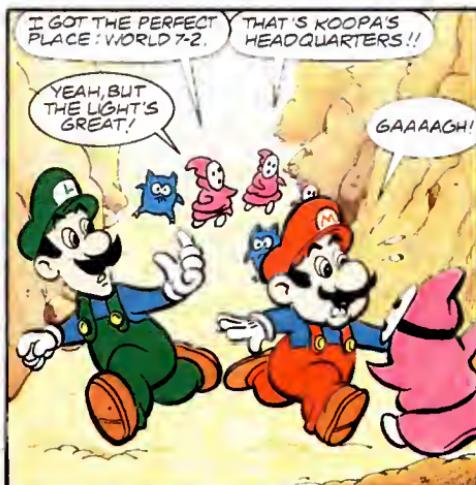


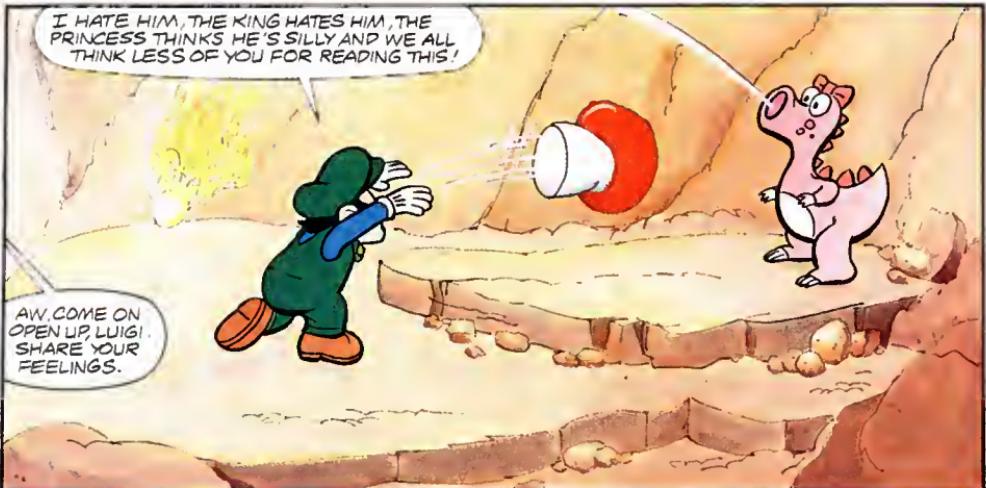
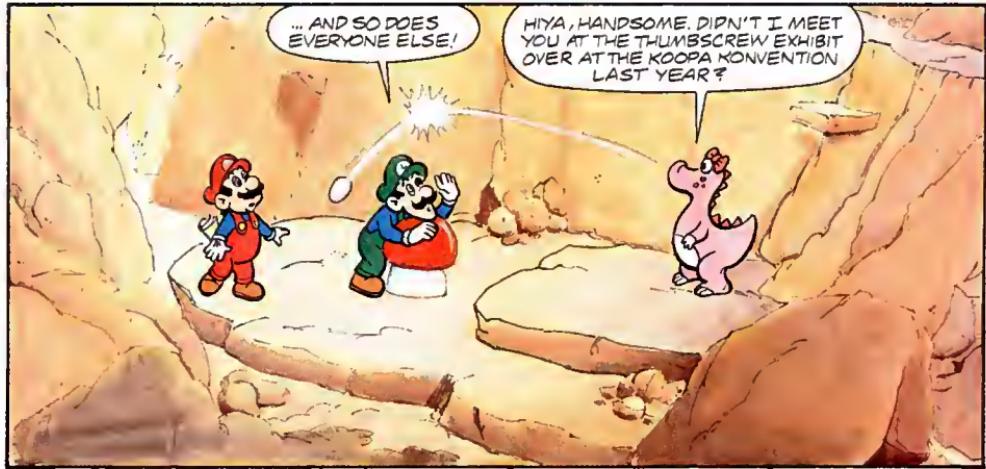
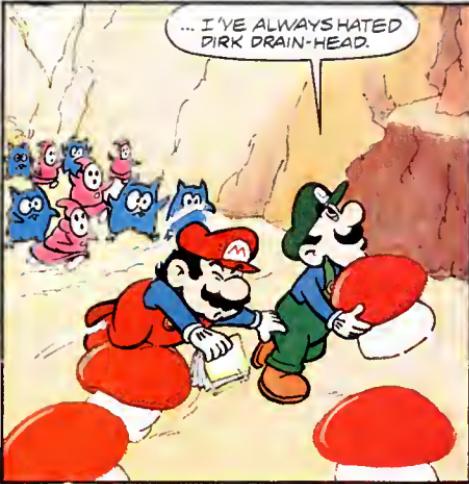
I GOT THE PERFECT PLACE: WORLD 7-2.

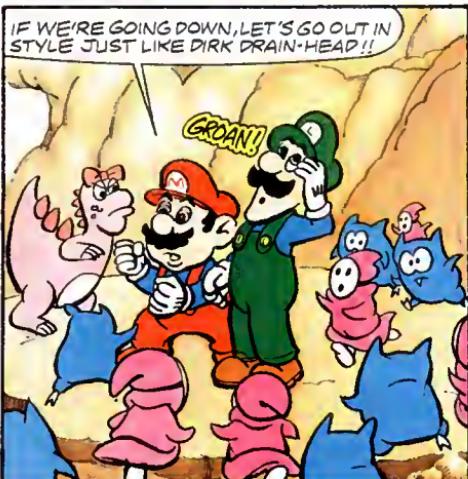
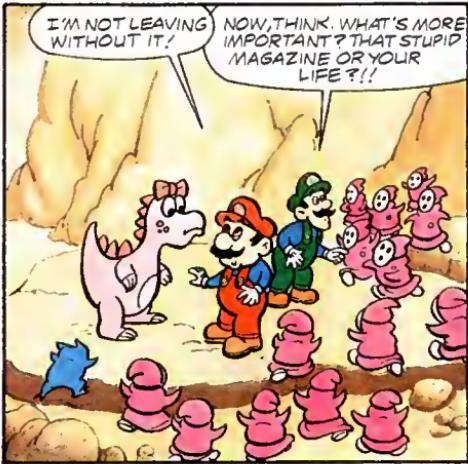
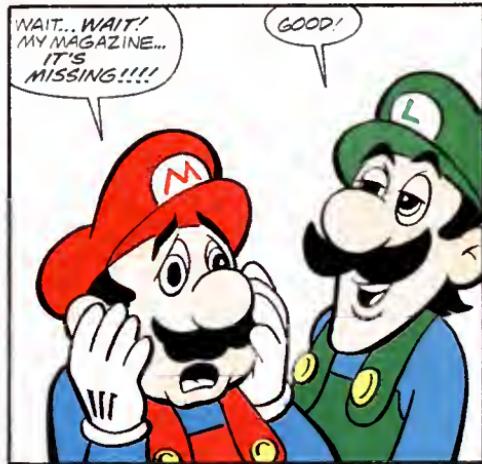
THAT'S KOOPA'S HEADQUARTERS!!

YEAH, BUT THE LIGHT'S GREAT!

GAAAACH!





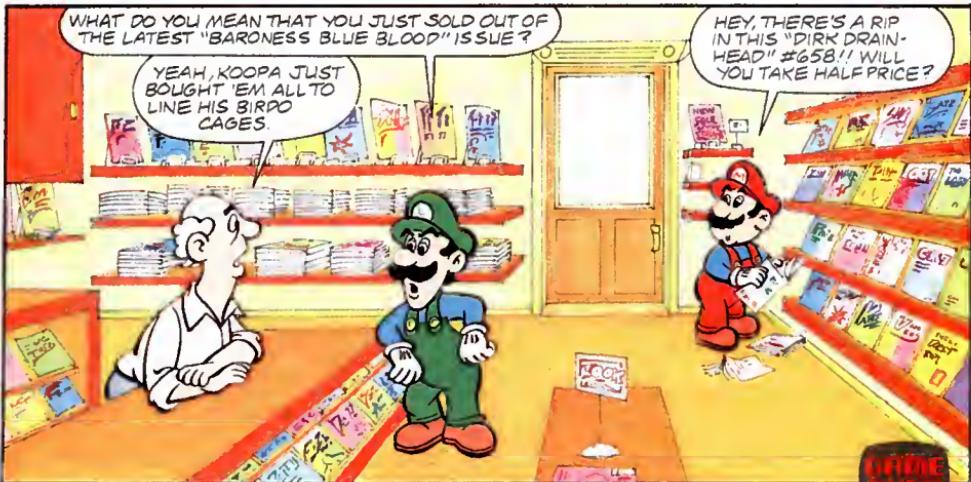


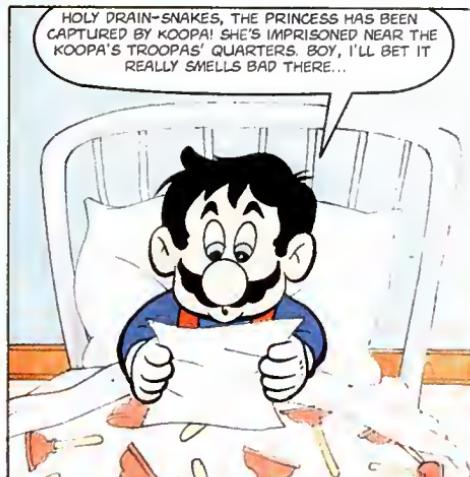
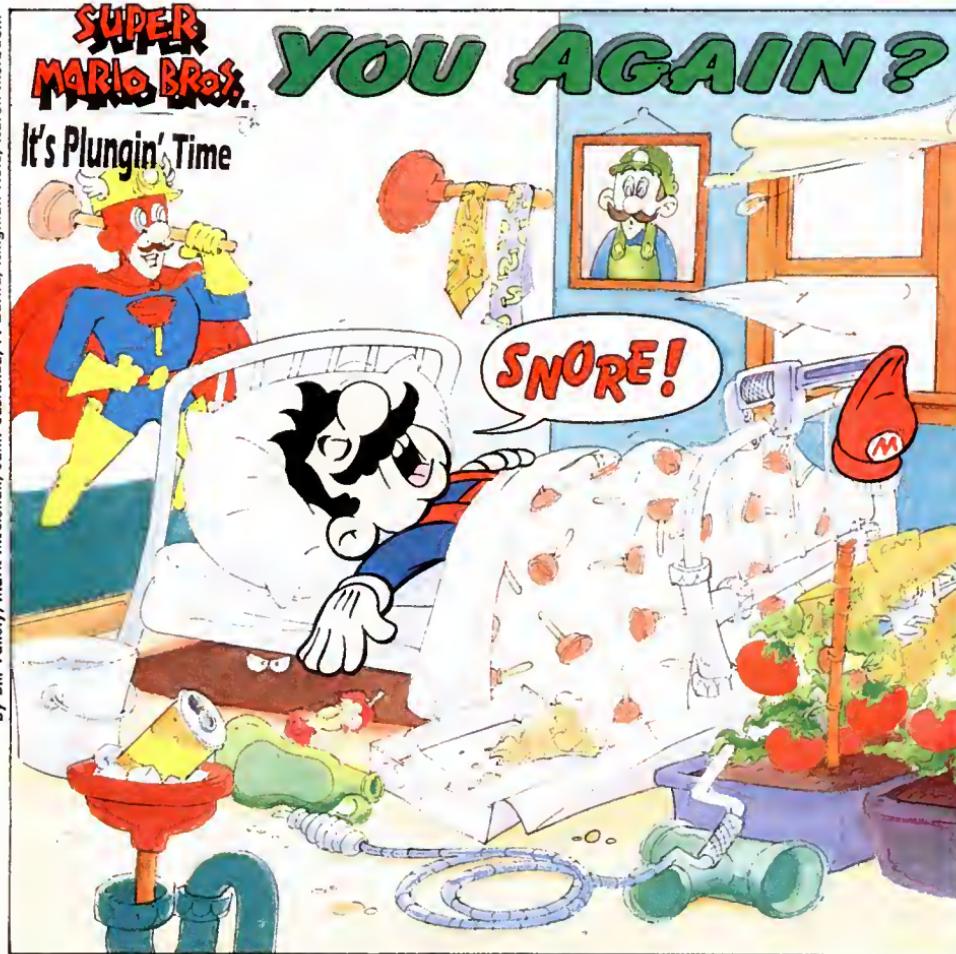
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT
LET'S LEAVE THE DIRK
DRAIN-HEAD MAG.

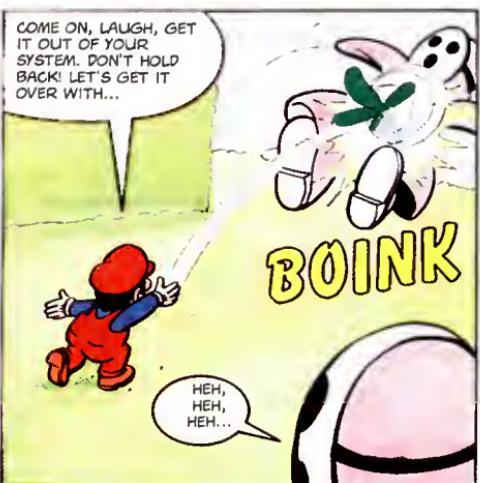
FINALLY-- A SHRED
OF TOTALLY UNEXPECTED
COMMON SENSE.

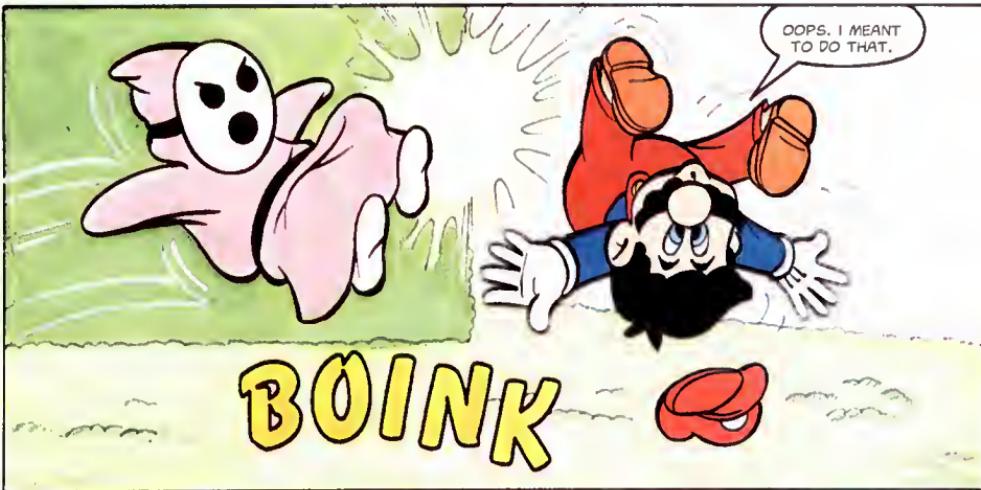
DID HE SAY "DIRK
DRAIN-HEAD"?

OMIGOSH, THE
LATEST ISSUE!!!













OH...FUNGUS! I MUST HAVE TAKEN MY STUPID PILLS TODAY.



KATHUMP!



WHAT A REALISTIC DREAM!
BUT WAIT -- THIS NOTE!!



OH, NO! THE PRINCESS IS BEING FORCED TO LISTEN TO A DEBATE BY TWO FRYGUYS ABOUT THE NAMES FOR THE LITTLE THINGS ON THE END OF YOUR SHOELACES!!



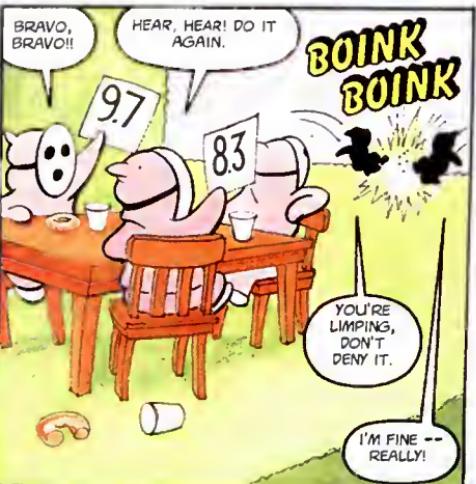
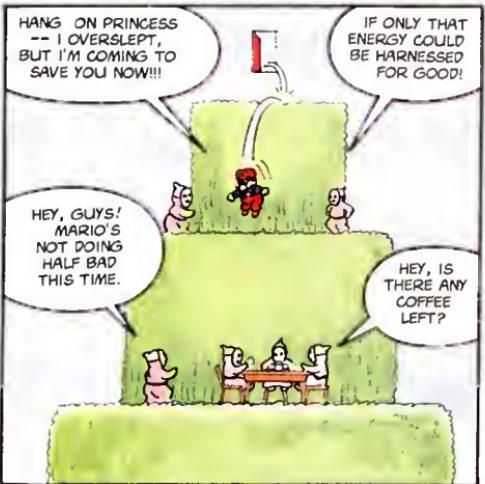
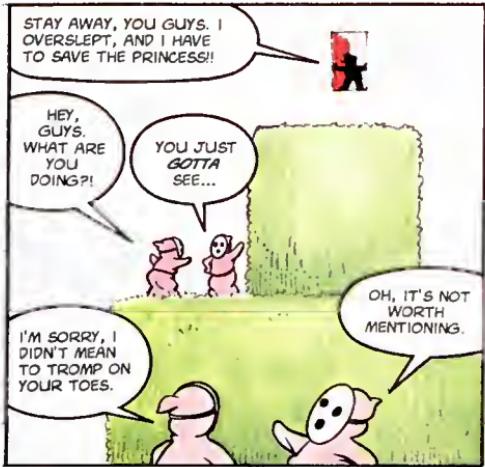
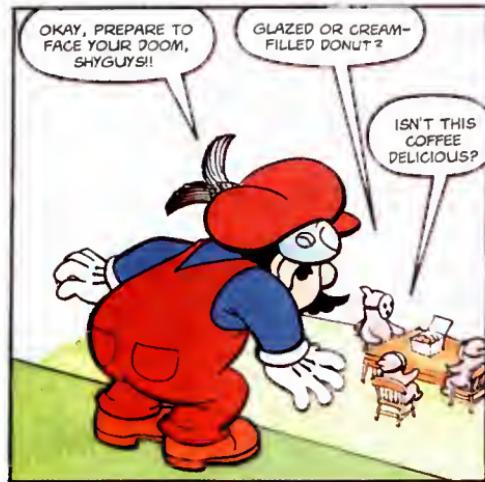
HE'S BACK. I GUESS WE SHOULD STOP HIM.

WHAT DO YOU CALL THOSE LITTLE THINGS ANYWAY? TABS? END CAPS? PLASTIC NOBBIE DEALS!?

DON'T YOU GUYS GET UP, I'LL HANDLE THIS.

GEE, THANKS.
WHAT A NICE GUY.





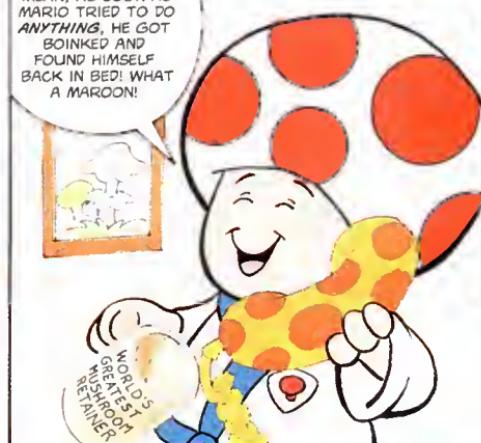


I DREAMED THAT MARIO WAS DREAMING THAT HE COULDN'T GET PAST WORLD ONE. BOY, WAS HE CLUMSY!

WELL, TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT LATER.



IT WAS FUNNY. I MEAN, AS SOON AS MARIO TRIED TO DO ANYTHING, HE GOT BOINKED AND FOUND HIMSELF BACK IN BED! WHAT A MAROON!



ONE TIME HE JUMPED RIGHT OFF THE WATERFALL! THE SHYGUYS WERE HAVING SNACKS AND COFFEE WHILE BOINKING HIM! BUT HE WAS DREAMING -- I MEAN I WAS DREAMING HE WAS DREAMING, AND...

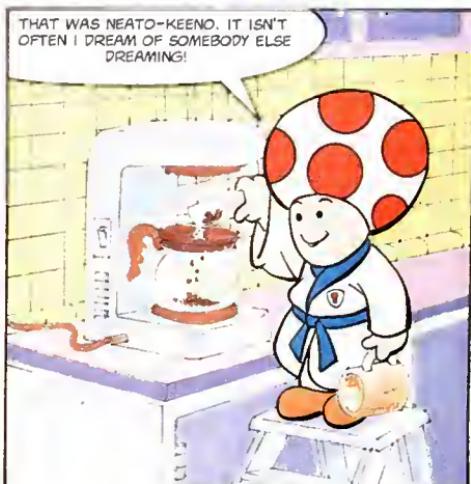


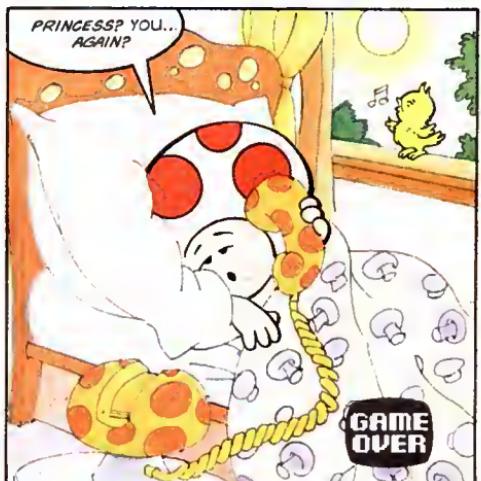
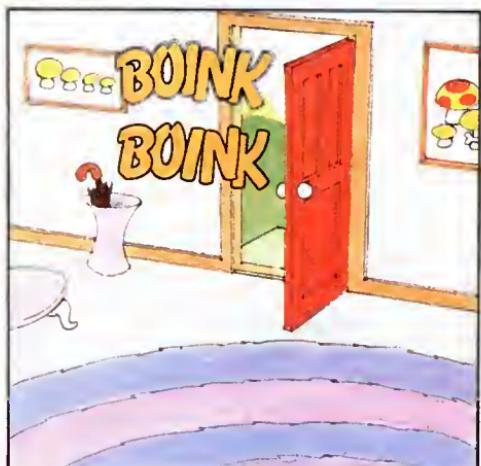
CLICK

HELLO? HELLO?
WELL, THAT'S THE LAST TIME I WAKE UP OUT OF A SOUND SLEEP FOR ROYALTY!



THAT WAS NEATO-KEENO. IT ISN'T OFTEN I DREAM OF SOMEBODY ELSE DREAMING!







BOINK

